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Sharon 2005

Natural Resources Inventory

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Introduction



The Natural Resource

Inventory is a compilation of Sharon's currently existing resources. It lists assets of value to the environment and to the Town's heritage and its rural character, and makes recommendations for protecting these key assets for the quality of life of current and future residents. The assets listed in this inventory are irreplaceable. They are mostly naturally occurring, but also include some manmade elements (farms, historic buildings, relics, cemeteries, etc.) that establish the character of this country town.

The Natural Resource Inventory acts as a benchmark of current assets which are worthy of conservation and is submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration in their Ten Year Plan of Development and Conservation. It also serves as a guideline for other land use organizations as well as for concerned citizens.

This document relies considerably upon the 1982 Sharon Natural Resources Plan, Sharon's first

natural resources inventory, as a template.

It revisits that document and, where necessary, updates, amends, or includes new information to reflect current data.

According to the 1982 Sharon Natural Resources Plan,

The Natural Resources [Inventory] serves two purposes. First, it is an inventory and evaluation of the important natural and cultural resources, their locations and functions. Second, it is a series of recommendations for the best utilization of these resources for the Town of Sharon and its residents. These recommendations are to be presented to the land management commissions and agencies of Sharon for their information. They are specifically directed to the... Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission... for incorporation into the Sharon Comprehensive Plan of Development, the Town Plan.¹

Sharon clocktower. Photo by Jonathan Doster.

¹Sharon Natural Resources Plan, 1982, p. 1.

To Sharon... A Salute

Sharon is undeniably one of the most beautiful villages in our six-town area. Conscious of her charms, she might simply have reclined on her lovely Green, fanned herself with her superb elms and done nothing to prove her worth.

**Stuart and Ann Hoskins, Editors
Lakeville Journal
October 10, 1955**

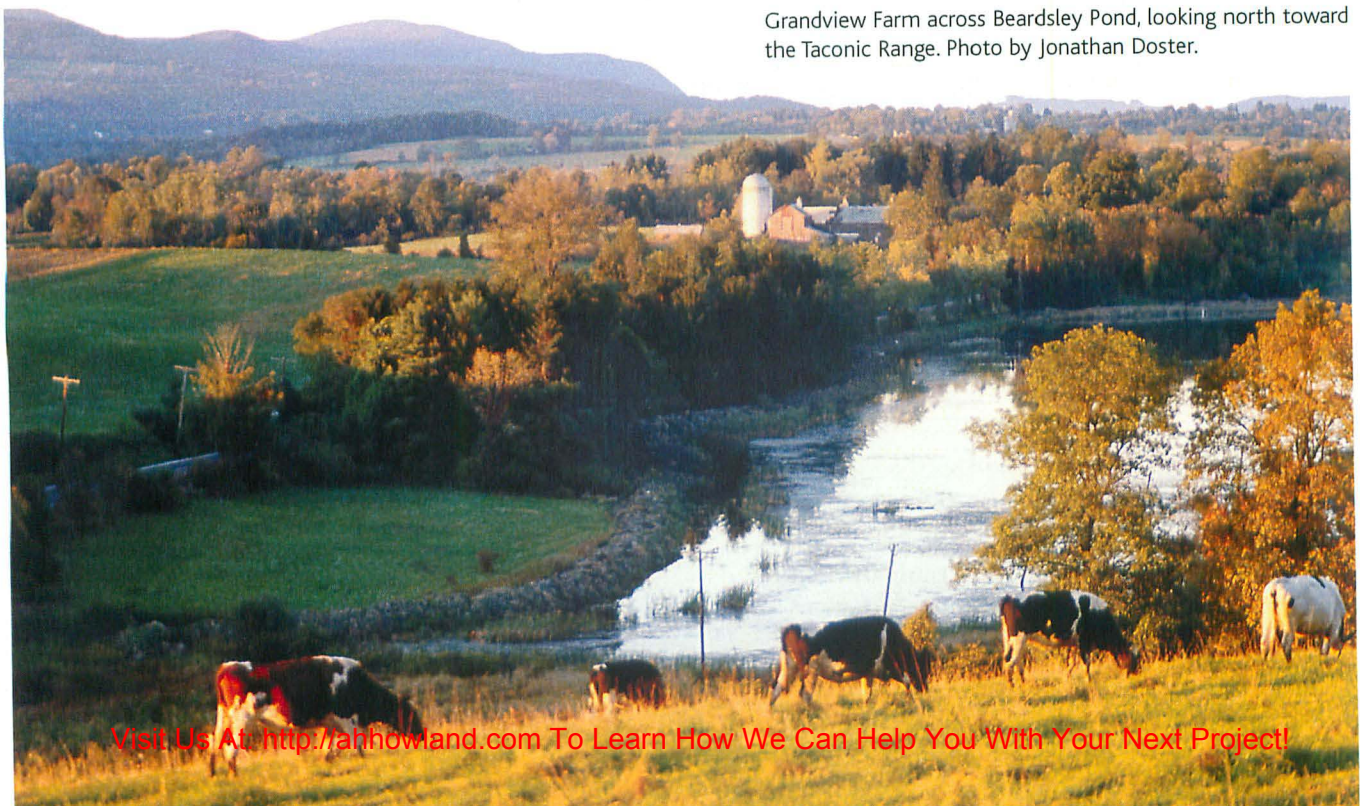
The Sharon Natural Resources Inventory 2005 is part of the continuing process of review necessary for the Sharon Comprehensive Plan of Development and Conservation. First developed and adopted in 1970, pursuant to State of Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 126, Sections 8-18 through 8-30d, the comprehensive plan of development and conservation is a guide for the implementation of policies and regulations that determine the Town's long-range growth and character.

During review of the 1982 Sharon Natural Resources Plan, it became clear that it would be

necessary to update much of the information contained in the report, due to changes in land use, protective easements, habitat awareness, nomenclature, and so forth. Consequently, the Conservation Commission formed a Natural Resources Inventory Task Force by inviting members of the Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Housatonic River Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, National Audubon Sharon, Planning and Zoning Commission, Sharon Historical Society, and Sharon Land Trust, joined by the First Selectman and other residents of Sharon. A list of resources to incorporate and evaluate was created, and topics for further study were assigned to committee members. Contributors to the NRI Committee and names of resource specialists are listed in the Acknowledgments (p. iii).

Sharon is located in the northwest corner of Connecticut in Litchfield County. It covers about thirty-nine thousand acres of land, rural in character.

A set of Sharon resources maps was developed as part of this inventory. These maps, which show the locations of the various resources that are described and evaluated, are included at reduced scale in this report. The original maps are available for viewing at Town Hall.



Grandview Farm across Beardsley Pond, looking north toward the Taconic Range. Photo by Jonathan Doster.



Beautiful Sharon....

*From every hilltop I had a new view, the landscape being
varied plains, rivers and lakes all framed by ranges
of mountains along the horizon.*

**George Hepworth
Brown's Studies**



Sharon Town Hall. Detail from a mural by Kathy J. Clegg ©1992, located at the Sharon Health Care Center. All rights reserved.

Cover: Four Maples. Preceding page: Twin Oaks. Photos by Jonathan Doster.

Acknowledgments

On July 30, 2003, the Sharon Conservation Commission formed a task force to study and document the Natural Resources of the Town. The Commission has organized and guided the Natural Resources Inventory Task Force (NRI) throughout this process utilizing the many talents of local experts. From the start individuals and organizations have contributed their time, expertise, skills, and equipment to produce a thorough and accurate report. We are extremely grateful to all who have helped and hope that this effort will provide valuable guidance to the entire Town.

Cicily Hajek, Chairman, Sharon Conservation Commission
Aaron Haber, NRI Communications Coordinator
Michael Lynch, NRI Recording Secretary

With grateful appreciation

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Horse and buggy on South Main, past and present.

Top photo c. 1900 by George M. Marckres, Courtesy of Sharon Historical Society.

Bottom photo of Cicily Hajek driving Equinox Beau Geste put to a Road Cart. Photo by Brian Wilcox © 2003.



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Review of Natural Resources

GEOGRAPHICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL, AND GEOLOGICAL

The Town of Sharon, 59.6 square miles in total land area, lies in the northwest corner of Connecticut. The Town is bordered on the north by Salisbury; on the east by Cornwall, sharing a border in the middle of the Housatonic River; on the south by Kent; and on the west by the New York Towns of Northeast and Amenia. The highest point is on Ellsworth Hill, 1551 feet above mean sea level. The lowest point is on the Housatonic River at the Kent border at 390 feet, for a total relief of 1161 feet.

Topographically and geologically, Sharon may be classed into four subdivisions (see map, p. 40):

1. *Western uplands*: Northwest corner of Town; Indian Mountain region ending west of Mudge Pond. Rock formations are primarily schist.
2. *Western lowlands*: Extending south-southwest from the Salisbury border through Sharon and Sharon Valley to Amenia Union. The lowlands are underlain by carbonate bedrock of Stockbridge marble.
3. *Central uplands*: The western upland border extends along the western base of Red Mountain, south-southwest to the hills bordering Sharon Village and Amenia Union to the east; the bedrock of the uplands includes the basement gneiss of the region along with overlying quartzite. This topographic subdivision includes the lower-level region in White Hollow that is underlain by carbonate rock.
4. *Housatonic River Valley*: Along the eastern border of Town. Unlike the bed of the river from Pittsfield to Falls Village and from

Cornwall Bridge south to beyond New Milford, this section is not underlain by carbonate rock; instead, the basement gneiss rock underlies and crops out on both sides of the river.

The Importance of Underlying Rock

Underlying rock is important for five reasons:

1. The marble valley land is agriculturally rich. Marble bedrock creates neutral, or basic, soil pH chemistry. This, in turn, enhances the efficiency of nutrient uptake by the overlying vegetation.
2. In wet areas, outcrops of calcium-rich bedrock such as dolomitic and calcitic marble create the unique and rare habitats known as calcareous wetlands.
3. Bedrock outcrops are scenic. Our rocky landscape creates considerable visual interest and often offers some of the best views.
4. Rock outcrop zones provide specialized habitat for some forms of plant and animal life.
5. Significant areas of rock outcrops often require blasting and rock excavation to accommodate development. Blasting, if uncontrolled, can damage adjacent properties and impact nearby wells.

Over the years, the geology of the region has provided an economic base for the Town. Among the natural resources found here are iron ore, lime, gravel, clay, and a variety of soils.

Today, a portion of Sharon's geologic heritage exists in the buildings, foundations, industrial structures, and stone walls constructed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Recommendations

1. In regions where any of our local bedrock formations crop out, care should be taken in the construction of roads and buildings and the drilling of wells.
2. In the present period when rocks are selling for handsome profits, landowners must be encouraged not to disturb stone walls, foundations and other archaeological remnants of Sharon's history.

SLOPES AND RIDGELINES

Slopes

The topography of Sharon is one of its most memorable and recognizable features. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshires, its landforms range from hilltops to hollows; its high fields and steep hillsides create a diversity of special character. Varying slopes and terrain increase the apparent extent of the landscapes. Intricate, inward-oriented hollows lie in contrast to expansive, outward-viewing hilltops and ridgelines.

The most recent predominant event that shaped Sharon's terrain was glaciation. Ice sheets a mile

thick moved down from the north, pushing tons of rock and earth in their path. This movement created the general pattern of predominantly north-south ridgelines separated by dry parallel valleys.

Sharon's terrain has influenced the development of the Town and its roadways more than any other factor. Our narrow valleys and steep slopes limit future road development, creating a valid concern about our ability to handle future growth and intensive development.

Slope identification is important because Sharon's driveway ordinance stipulates that no driveway may be built with a finished gradient steeper than 15%. Although a driveway can be built where the grade is in excess of 15%, its construction will require earthwork cuts, fill, and, in some instances, retaining walls and/or "switchback" alignments. The slope map on page 43 identifies three categories of slope, each important because of its impact on development.

The first slope category represents areas possessing gentle to moderate slopes, from 0 to 15% (a one-foot rise or drop over approximately six feet eight inches horizontally). This category of slopes covers about 67.6% of the Town.

The second category comprises slopes ranging from 15% to 25% (a one-foot rise or drop between approximately six feet eight inches and four feet horizontally). Slopes of this type cover approximately 19.7% of the Town. Sedimentation and erosion control planning are particularly important at this gradient.

The third category consists of slopes whose gradient exceeds 25%. This category covers approximately 12.7% of the Town's area. While development may occur on these steep slopes, it is not recommended. Here soil erosion control is critical, and in most instances the

Rainbow vista, Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4). Photo by Jonathan Doster.



extent of the earthwork required is excessive for development on slopes with a gradient of 25% or greater. Several towns in Connecticut prevent development on such slopes; as a deterrent to ridgeline development, others do not include them when calculating building lot size.

Development within slopes of 25% or greater should proceed with extreme caution, if at all, and only after thorough engineering, planning, and environmental impact studies.

Recommendations

1. Development within areas of 15 to 25% slopes (category 2) should require architectural and site plan solutions for irregular terrain. Sedimentation and erosion control should also be required.
2. Limit development of slopes over 20%.
3. Slopes of greater than 25% should be excluded from calculations of building lot size.

Ridgelines

Protection of Sharon's ridgelines is vital if we wish to preserve the scenic character of our rural environment. The Town has four principal ridgelines, which run northeast to southwest:

- ◆ Indian Mountain from the Lakeville border to the Millerton Road
- ◆ Red Mountain viewed from Salisbury to the south end of White Hollow and from Lakeville to Beardsley Pond
- ◆ Mount Easter and Mine Mountain area
- ◆ Housatonic Valley ridgeline from Salisbury line to Cornwall Bridge and continuing through Silver Hill to Buck Hill and Dawn Hill to the Kent border. The Appalachian Trail runs along much of this ridgeline.

In addition to these major ridgelines, there are many smaller ridges that are also vital to Sharon's rural appearance. The most important of these ridges are those visible from major gateway roads. These include:

- ◆ The Millerton Road south of Indian Lake to Sharon Valley Road

If one had not leisure for detailed explorations, and can spend but a week, let him begin, say at Sharon or Salisbury. Ever varying mountain forms frame the horizon. There is a constant succession of hills swelling into mountains and mountains flowing into hill. I would willingly make the journey once a month from New York.

Henry Ward Beecher
Star Pipers

- ◆ Amenia Road from Tri-Arts (Sharon Playhouse) to the New York state border
- ◆ The ridges east and southwest of Ellsworth Farm on Route 4
- ◆ The eastern ridgeline on Route 41 from Boland Road to Amenia Union

Sharon's scenic roads owe much to ridgeline views. Large houses perched on hilltops with large areas of clearing over steep slopes seriously impact scenic character. Unfortunately, these locations are in great demand because of the views they afford. Legislated ridgeline protection is essential if the rural character of the Town is to be preserved. Ridgelines adjacent to steep slopes are of primary concern; these and the Town's major ridgelines are illustrated on the ridgeline map on page 43.

Recommendations

1. Because only traprock ridgelines are directly protected by Connecticut state statutes, it is imperative that Planning and Zoning investigate methods used by other towns to protect ridgeline development, even if those protections are limited in nature.
2. Protect the viewable horizons of these ridgelines which are sometimes of greater importance than the ridgelines themselves.

WETLANDS AND AQUIFERS

Inland wetlands and watercourses are indispensable, irreplaceable, and fragile natural resources. Wetlands and watercourses form an interrelated web of nature essential to the adequate supply of surface and underground water. Wetlands and watercourses contribute to hydrological stability, control of flooding and erosion, and the recharging and purification of groundwater, and are crucial to the existence of many forms of animal, plant, and aquatic life.

Included in local wetlands and watercourses are fens, marshes, swamps, vernal pools, calcareous wetlands, beaver ponds, streams, lakes, and ponds. Activity in areas defined as wetlands is regulated by the Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (SIWWC). The SIWWC is responsible for protecting these vital resources as well as runoff areas and forests as an important adjunct to hydrology. Rain on forests—rather than fields, agricultural lands, or pavement—seeps into the ground, becoming groundwater and a source of drinking water.

Wetlands and watercourses are key features of Sharon's landscape. The occurrence of these extremely important features is dependent upon local terrain, soil characteristics, and hydrology. Wetlands and watercourses develop wherever the presence of water provides a dominant effect. Occupying low-lying and watershed drainage, wetlands and watercourses are not only defined by the surrounding uplands but also interconnected with them. In Sharon as well as in the surrounding Towns, upland wetlands and watercourses are numerous. This feature is particularly evident in the

Boating on Mudge Pond. Photo by Jonathan Doster.



series of valleys trending northwest to southeast in Sharon's central highlands.

Significant development of Sharon wetlands and watercourses can be traced to the retreat of the Wisconsin Stage of the Pleistocene Epoch, about 15,000 YBP (Years Before Present). During this period the melting of glacial ice produced annual water runoff perhaps as much as two hundred times that experienced today. As the thick continental glacier melted from higher to lower elevations and generally from south to north, both valley and upland settings of streamcourses became blocked by thick natural ice and debris dams, behind which proglacial lakes were formed.

These temporary water bodies are generally defined by glaciolacustrine terraces (lake shoreline levels). A terrace of proglacial Lake Ellsworth on Ellsworth Hill at 1380 feet above sea level is the highest feature of its type in Connecticut. In the northeast area of Town along U.S. Route 7, several hundred feet north of the junction of Kirk Road and Swaller Hill Road, a late-Wisconsin ice and debris dam blocked the valley. The resulting lake at the 600' contour, later at 550', stretched to the village of Lime Rock and to the lower portion of Great Falls, forming proglacial Lake Lime Rock. (To the north, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village is located on the terrace of this former lake at 550' above mean sea level. Across the Housatonic, the village of Lime Rock rests at the same level.) Also along the Housatonic River, south of Housatonic State Park, proglacial Lake Kent extended over the Sharon border.

In the area south of Mudge Pond, a glacial debris dam formed ancient Lake Mudge, and held the lake at a level 36 feet higher and about twice the length of the present water body. The area of Lake Mudge was 3.4 times the area of the present Mudge Pond. Today, the lowland, sediment-filled basin north of the pond is a vestige of the larger lake and a significant wetland.

In Sharon Valley, the long but shallow Lake Sharon extended across the state border. In the central highlands, ancient Lake Miles, occupying the valley along West Cornwall Road, was actually a three-phase lake, each lower phase forming when the dam upstream washed away. Phase I was located primarily at the site of present-day Roy's Swamp, while Phase II was dammed at a point 0.6 miles east of the Miles Sanctuary. The dam for Phase III formed along Surdan Mountain Road, just west of the point where today's Carse Brook begins its steep tumble down the hill to the Housatonic River. Today the extent of all three phases encompasses significant wetlands, further enlarged by the ever-active beaver population.

Why are these 15,000-year-old proglacial lakes important? Primarily because the locations and characteristics of these water bodies are interrelated with our watersheds, stratified drift aquifers, wetlands, watercourses, ponds and lakes. In addition, the lakes outline the location (but not necessarily the level) of our flood plains. In general, knowledge concerning the ancient lakes can be very helpful, particularly in areas such as the one-time Lake Mudge and Lake Miles. In the former, the northern vestige is underlain by a stratified drift aquifer. In the case of Lake Miles, the entire length serves as an excellent habitat for plant and animal species, many of which are endangered.



Migrating geese over Beardsley Pond (Town of Sharon Reservoir). Photo by Jonathan Doster.

Significant Waterbody, Watercourse, and Wetland Areas

Lakes and Ponds

- ◆ Mudge Pond
- ◆ Indian Lake
- ◆ Beardsley Pond
- ◆ Miles Pond
- ◆ Hatch Pond
- ◆ Ford Pond
- ◆ Bog Meadow Pond
- ◆ Hamlin Pond
- ◆ Eastman Pond
- ◆ Hilltop Pond
- ◆ Peck Pond
- ◆ Others include farm ponds, fire ponds, seasonal water bodies, and beaver ponds

Watercourses (Rivers and Streams)

Note: Tributary streams of the Housatonic River and Webatuck Creek, streams not possessing map names or whose names could not be located, have been temporarily named by the writer.



Willow over the Housatonic River. Painting by Arthur Getz, used courtesy of Sarah Getz. © 1996 Estate of Arthur Getz. All rights reserved.

1. Housatonic River: forms the border between Sharon and Cornwall.
 2. Webatuck Creek: Rises in wetlands north of Millerton, flows into Sharon northwest of Sharon Valley, into New York State, then south-southeast to Hitchcock Corners and west into New York State, where it meets the Wassaic Creek to become the Ten Mile River, flowing south then east to join the Housatonic below Bull's Falls in Kent.
 3. Indian Lake Brook
 4. Mudge Pond Brook
 5. Beardsley Pond Brook
 6. Stone House Road Brook
 7. Calkinstown Brook
 8. Jewett Hill Brook
 9. Valley Brook: Formed at the junction of Mudge Pond, Beardsley Pond, and Indian Lake brooks; the stream joins Webutuck Creek in the south area of Sharon Valley.
 10. White Hollow Brook
 11. Pine Swamp Brook
 12. Swaller Hill Brook
 13. Roy's Swamp Brook
 14. Carse Brook (Forge Brook) and tributaries
 15. Tanner Road Brook
 16. Beebe Brook
 17. Mill Brook—excellent meanders along Route 41 north of Little Falls
 18. Knibloe Hill Brook
 19. Bog Meadow Brook
 20. Guinea Brook (once Forge Creek, now Mill River in upper section)
 21. Macedonia Brook and tributaries
 22. Stewart Hollow Brook
 23. Stony Brook
 24. North Kent Brook
- In addition to the watercourses listed here, Sharon has dozens of other associated watercourses and intermittent streams.

Wetland Soils

The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act defines wetland soils to include “any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial and flood plain.” There are five factors that determine soil formation:

1. The nature of the parent material
2. Climate
3. Organisms
4. Topography
5. Time

Opposite: Ford Pond, Sharon Audubon. Photo by Jonathan Doster.

All of these factors are affected by water; thus the hydrology of an area is important in determining how the soil develops. Four wetland soil types are designated, as follows:

1. *Poorly drained.* Water is removed so slowly that the soil is wet at shallow depths periodically during the growing season or remains wet for long periods. Free water is commonly at or near the surface during the growing season.
2. *Very poorly drained.* Water is removed from the soil so slowly that free water remains at or very near the ground surface during much of the growing season.
3. *Alluvial.* These soils form in sediment deposited by streams.
4. *Flood plain.* These soils form in the nearly level alluvial plain that borders a stream; they are subject to flooding unless protected artificially. These soils are often better drained than the poorly drained soils, but are still considered to be Connecticut state wetlands because they are subject to flooding.

Wetlands

Wetlands are classified by the presence of wetland soils. *Note:* Vernal pools, calcareous and other wet-

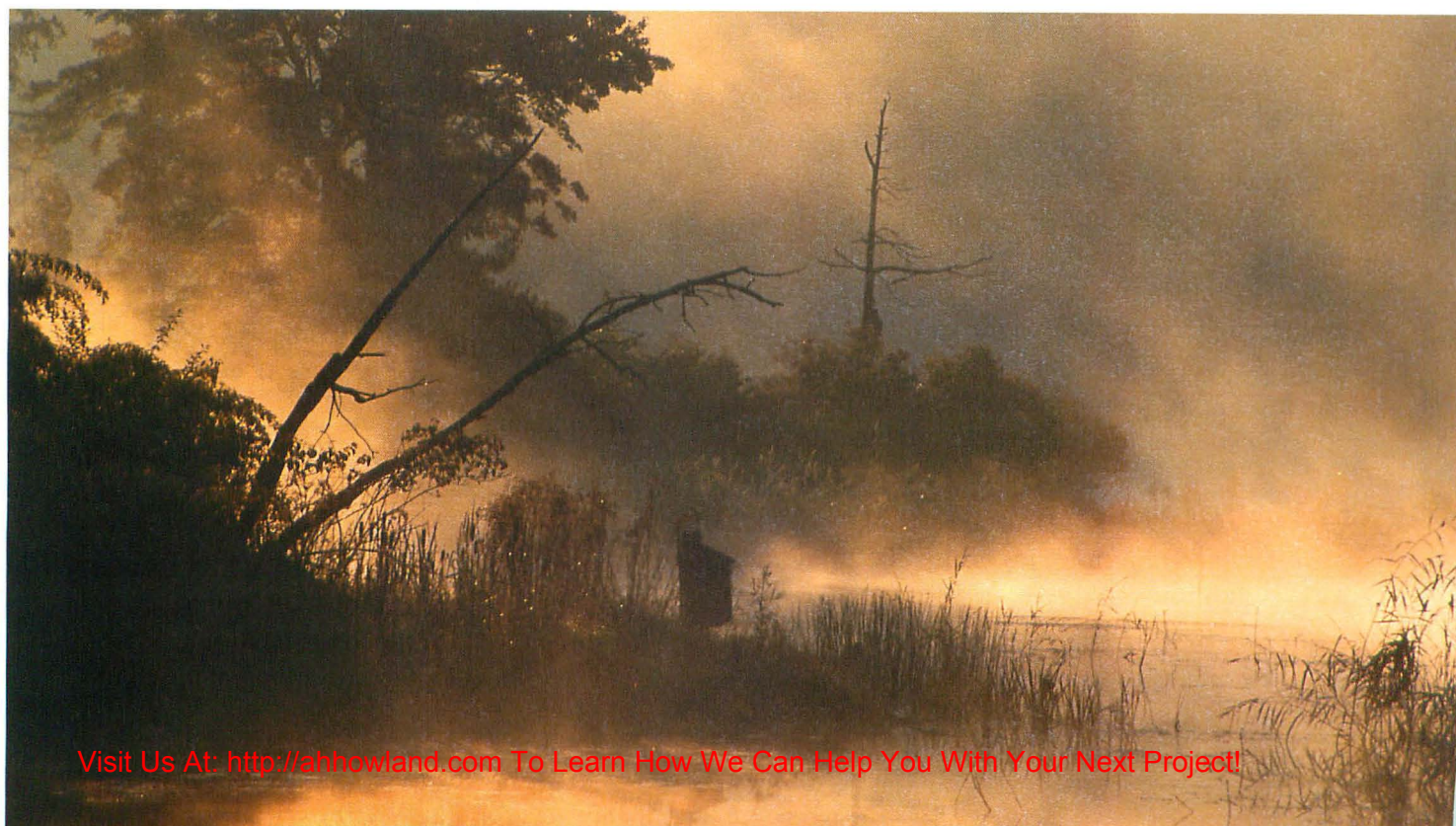
lands, and riparian habitat and lakes, although also wetlands, will be further addressed under the following section, Fragile and Unique Areas.

Major Wetland Areas

- ◆ Proglacial Lake Mudge (north end)
- ◆ South of Indian Lake
- ◆ Three zones along White Hollow Brook
- ◆ Mount Easter Pine Swamp
- ◆ Three-phase proglacial Lake Miles
- ◆ North extension of Sharon Valley
- ◆ Stonehouse Road region
- ◆ Sharon Country Club / Benton Hill region
- ◆ Bog Meadow region
- ◆ West Woods / Peck Pond region
- ◆ Skiff Mountain Pine Swamp

Other Wetland Areas

- ◆ Regions dammed by beavers. After generations of beaver absence in Sharon, the large rodents were reintroduced in 1951. The first beaver dam was constructed in the breached holding dam 0.6 miles east of the entrance to Miles Sanctuary.
- ◆ Any area having wetland soil.



Beautiful Sharon. To me it is the fairest spot on the globe. When I go to heaven I hope to begin the journey from Sharon. Stately elms give a picturesqueness to the place which it would be difficult to duplicate. The drives about Sharon are exceptionally fine. I explore the surrounding country sometimes on foot and then again on horse-back. From every hilltop I had a new view, the landscape being varied plains, rivers and lakes all framed by ranges of mountains along the horizon. When you know all, you will understand why Sharon is like a paradise; and why I am building a cottage there on a hilltop just outside the village limits.

George Hepworth
Brown's Studies

- ◆ Gager's Swamp south to Hatch Pond
- ◆ Mill Brook region, from Deming's Mill south-southwest to Amenia Union
- ◆ Three-phase proglacial Lake Miles
- ◆ Along the Housatonic River in proglacial lake beds

Recommendations

1. Ensure that existing regulations protecting environmental quality, such as wetland regulations, are enforced; consider developing additional regulations and guidelines to ensure quality of unique habitat.
2. Extend buffer zones around Sharon's wetlands and watercourses and, wherever possible, other critical habitats.
3. Exclude wetland areas from the calculation of building lot size.

Aquifers

Enforcement of activities in areas underlain by aquifers is not included under the Regulations of the SIWWC. However, since many aquifers underlie wetland soils, protection is often provided by limiting activities in the area.

Bedrock Aquifers

Maps of bedrock aquifer locations have not been found. It is likely such a feature exists south of Sharon village along Route 41 west from the junction of West Woods Road #1, Amenia Union Road and Mitcheltown Road, west through the Sharon Country Club. In this region the Stockbridge marble formation lies very close to the surface, covered only by a thin layer of soil. Surface ponding is frequent, and one well in the area initially produced a flow of two hundred gallons per minute.

Stratified Drift Aquifers

- ◆ General Sharon Valley, from Millerton Road south through the Valley to the area along Amenia Road
- ◆ North of proglacial Lake Mudge

FRAGILE AND UNIQUE AREAS

Sharon's diverse topography and land cover offer not only a beautiful setting for its residents and visitors but also varied habitat, supporting a high diversity of plants and wildlife. All species of animals and plants need certain habitats to maintain a viable population. Some of these species are generalists that adapt to changing land cover, while others are specialists that need certain types of habitat to survive. Areas that support specialist species are known as critical habitat or unique areas.

This report will use the term *fragile and unique areas* to refer to areas of high biological diversity or unique habitat for certain species, as well as areas that should be conserved in order to protect the environmental health of the ecosystems in the town for wildlife and humans alike. The term *critical habitat* is often defined as the area needed for an animal to find nutrition and cover and to viably reproduce; it also has a legal definition, set forth in the federal Endangered Species Act (see Appendix II, p. 53).

Sharon is a unique town that has maintained its "quaint" New England character. Because the northwest region of Connecticut, including Sharon, has largely undeveloped and unfragmented land-

scapes, the area has the highest biological diversity in the state (Preston, 1996). The following sections identify areas with high concentrations of biological diversity or the presence of unique habitat. By maintaining these areas through protective and proactive planning, we can maintain the character of the town and its rich biological diversity, which are cherished by Sharon's residents and visitors and are critical to the wildlife found throughout the town and region.

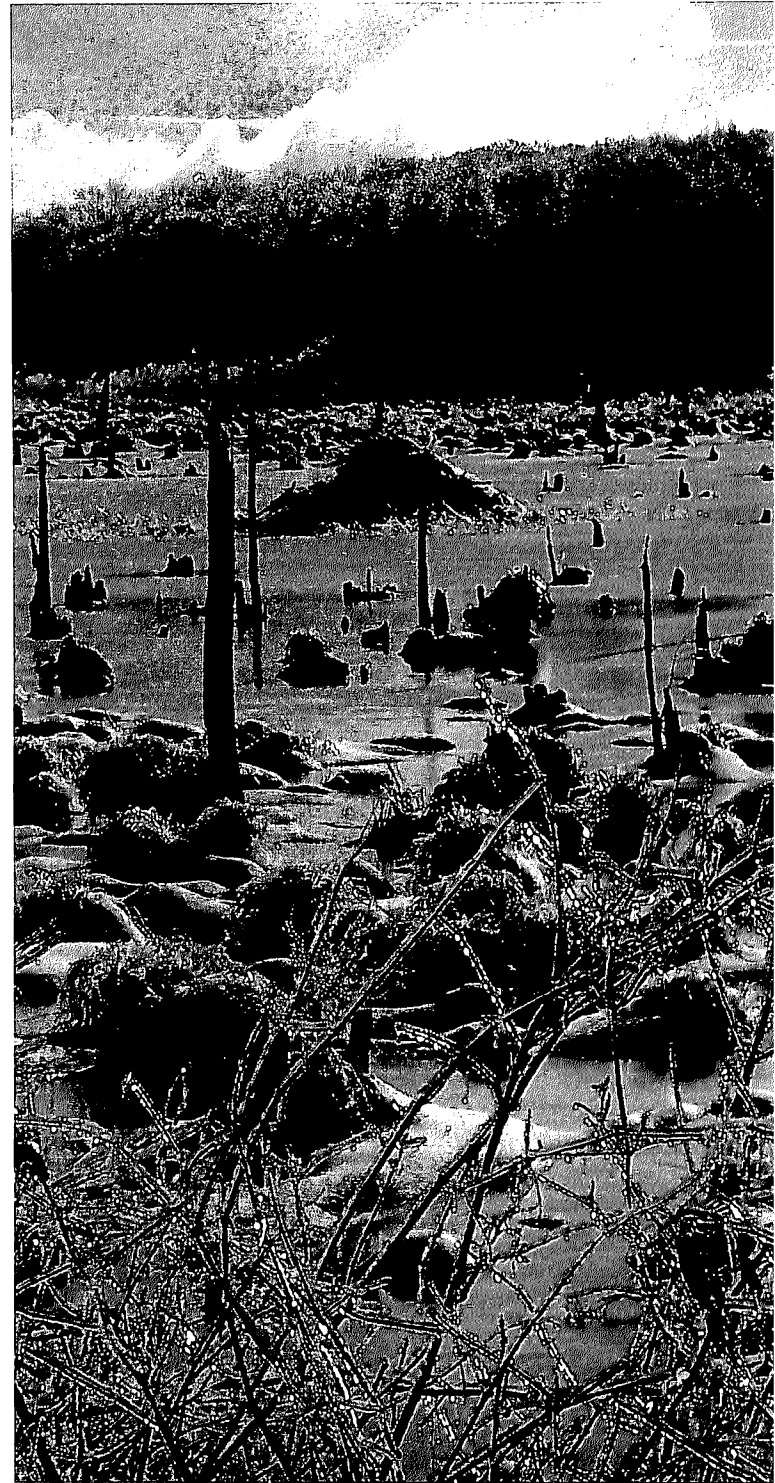
Listed as fragile and unique areas are: vernal pools; calcareous and other wetlands; riparian habitat, lakes, and watersheds; wildlife corridors; habitats of listed species; large forested blocks; and talus areas and ledges. The impact of invasive species on such areas is also discussed.

Vernal Pools

Scattered throughout Sharon's forested lands are vernal pools—temporary pools, either natural or manmade, that maintain water for part of the year and are devoid of breeding fish populations. These temporary wetlands provide unique habitat that many animals (particularly amphibians) and plants depend on partially or fully for their life cycles. Some invertebrate species, such as fairy shrimp (*Eubranchipus spp.*), complete their entire life cycles within vernal pools; while birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles use these pools as important habitat resources (see Kenney and Burne, *A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools*, 2000). Vernal pools are a fragile and increasingly vulnerable type of wetland.

Calcareous and Other Wetlands

Wetlands ecosystems are extremely rich in biological diversity and production. They not only offer a diversity of wildlife habitat (the state endangered American Bittern is known to breed here) but also protect groundwater, improving its quality by serving as filtration systems. In wetlands, a chemical action known as cation exchange takes place, binding pollutants and filtering them from the water table. In addition, wetland plants help prevent erosion by holding soil intact and reducing the veloci-



Beaver lodge, West Ellsworth. Photo by Walter Schwarz.

ty of running water. During periods of heavy rain, wetlands act as storage basins, moderating heavy rain runoff and allowing for water infiltration. Calcareous wetlands are unique wetlands that occur around outcrops of calcareous (calcium-rich) bedrock such as dolomitic and calcitic mar-

ble. These occurrences are limited to relatively small areas along the Appalachian Ridge and Valley and adjacent portions of the Allegheny Plateau, Taconic Highlands, New England Uplands, and the New York–New Jersey Highlands (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Sharon is included among the areas where calcareous wetlands can be found. The Nature Conservancy's Benton Hill Fen is one good example and others are in the process of being identified. The conditions in these wetland areas are unique and support a variety of plants and animals not found anywhere else.

Riparian Habitats, Lakes, and Watersheds

Riparian habitats are water-dependent ecosystems characterized by a rich and diverse group of plant and animal species. A valuable community resource, riparian ecosystems play a key role in reducing flood peaks and enhancing water quality, soil stability, and groundwater replenishment. Riparian areas also provide important open space, recreational opportunities, and habitat for the diverse group of organisms dependent on these areas. The riparian habitat along both sides of the Housatonic River, which extends along the eastern border of the Town, as well as those of the rest of the watercourses listed on page 8, are shown with their buffer zones on the map on page 44.

Mudge Pond, named after early settler Ebenezer Mudge, is Sharon's largest lake with an area of about 200 acres and a depth of 35 feet. Along with the recreational activities and scenic vistas it offers, the lake supports rare species like the hard-stemmed bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), a threatened species. The Sharon Lake Association has been monitoring the health of Mudge Pond and has published a guide that describes its wildlife and history.

Ponds and lakes, both naturally occurring and manmade, are significant in terms of wildlife habitat, water management, and aesthetic beauty. Watersheds, the areas that drain into the lakes, play an important role in the water quality of each lake. The use of contaminants such as fertilizers and pesticides within a lake's watershed area is deleterious to the long-term health of the lake.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors enable the movement of animals and plants from one place to another. The Housatonic State Forest extends down from the north-central and western part of the Town, and up from Kent at the southern border. Within this vast protected forestland is a mosaic of open space, some of which is protected by the State, National Park Service, and local conservation groups. Other parcels are currently unprotected. (see map, p. 45). Major disruption to wildlife corridors—such as



By Indian Lake, c.1900. Photo by George M. Marckres, courtesy of Sharon Historical Society.

Opposite page:

Top: Spreading Globeflower (*Trollius laxus*), Sharon. A threatened species in Connecticut. Photo by Aaron Haber.

Middle: Wood Thrush, a declining species in Connecticut that needs large forested blocks. Photo by R. J. Hand, Courtesy Connecticut Ornithological Association <http://www.ctbirding.org>

Bottom: Eastern Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*), Sharon. A species of special concern in Connecticut. Photo by Aaron Haber.

subdivision—can be a problem if animal and plant migration patterns are blocked.

Linking protected open space in Sharon (see maps, p.44–45) through creation of wildlife corridors and greenways allows for the movement of wildlife and creates additional strips of protected open space and habitat. Studies show that corridors should generally be as wide and as continuous as possible. On a regional scale, corridors can link up to form a complex network.

Habitats of Listed Species

Individual species of plants and animals can become rare for a variety of reasons. Loss and/or degradation of habitat and over-collection are two of the most common reasons. In 1989, the Connecticut Legislature passed Public Act 89-224, “An Act Establishing a Program for the Protection of Endangered and Threatened Species.” The overall goal of the legislation is to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance any endangered or threatened species and their essential habitat. The Connecticut Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB, see p. 50) which was updated in 2004, lists the state’s native flora and fauna that are at risk. Listed species are categorized according to the number of occurrences in the state. The following categories are defined further in Appendix II (p. 53):

- ◆ *Endangered (E)*: fewer than 6 occurrences
- ◆ *Threatened (T)*: 6 to 9 occurrences
- ◆ *Species of Special Concern (SC)*: species possessing a naturally restricted range or habitat or a low population level, or in high demand by humans or extirpation from the state

The NDDDB data has been placed on the map on page 44, represented by aqua circles a half-mile in



radius. This method identifies the habitat to be protected while concealing the exact location of the species. To date, a number of Endangered and Threatened species and Species of Concern have been identified in Sharon. Many more such species are likely to exist; therefore, identifying and protecting critical habitat is essential. The full State of Connecticut’s NDDDB list is found in Appendix III (pp. 54–61).

Large Forested Blocks



Large forested blocks of land provide essential habitat for birds and other wildlife, including some species of global or continental conservation concern. These sites



include areas for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds and large mammals. As shown on the map on page 44, Sharon’s large blocks of nonfragmented forests are important in Connecticut. The two most important blocks of forested land shown on the map are (1) the area that

Captions on previous page.

includes the Miles Wildlife Sanctuary, adjacent Housatonic State Forest, and adjoining large privately owned tracts; and (2) the area that includes Macedonia Brook State Park and adjacent large privately owned tracts.

Audubon, as the U.S. partner for Bird Life International (BLI), is working to identify a network of sites that provide critical habitat for birds during some part of their life cycle (breeding, wintering,

feeding, migrating). The two above-mentioned blocks have been determined to meet Connecticut's criteria for Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Further studies will determine the possible continental or global significance of these tracts. BLI and Audubon's national and state programs set scientific criteria for the assessment of IBAs by measuring the presence of WatchList bird species and other species of local, regional, national, continental, or global concern. The Cerulean Warbler (see photo, p. 63), a species of global concern, and the Wood Thrush (see photo, p. 13), a species of continental concern, are known to breed in significant numbers in Sharon's forests, as do a number of other species on Audubon's Watchlist or Partners in Flight's list of Species of Conservation Concern.

Talus Areas and Ledges

Talus areas are composed of the accumulation of dislodged rock at the base of a rock ledge outcrop. The crevices and spaces between the rocks provide hibernacula for animals spending their winter months in dormancy as well as temporary shelter and nesting sites for varied species. Talus areas are found at the base of steep slopes.

Ledges are characterized primarily by exposed bedrock, with sparse vegetation present in crevices

and other areas where calcareous soil is able to accumulate; the ledges in Sharon are often found in conjunction with its many ridgelines. Ledges in Sharon provide nesting sites for Common Ravens (a Connecticut Species of Special Concern), Timber Rattlesnakes (endangered in Connecticut) and myriad other plants and animals. Several rare plant species, such as *Asplenium ruta-muraria* and *Cryptogramma stelleri*, can be found on these cliffs (The Nature Conservancy). The Sharon Country Club property has a noted occurrence of calcareous rocky summit and outcrops that may contain unique plant and animal species. The Nature Conservancy is exploring this area further.

Impacts of Invasive Plants and Animals

Invasive species, particularly plants, are becoming a serious issue in Sharon. Invasive species (usually non-native) can alter the physical characteristics of natural areas by out-competing native species and taking over native woodlands (Japanese Barberry, Japanese Honeysuckle, Winged Euonymus, Asiatic Bittersweet, Garlic Mustard) and wetlands (Phragmites [see photo, p. 68], Purple Loosestrife, Eurasian Water Milfoil). The State of Connecticut has enacted legislation banning certain invasive plants. This legislation prohibits the import, export, retail sale or wholesale, and purchase of any inva-



Twin Oaks, protected by the Sharon Land Trust. Photo by Jonathan Doster.

sive or potentially invasive plant on the list (see Appendix VI, p. 66, and Appendix VII, p. 69).

Notable Trees

Majestic old trees connect us to the past, much as historic buildings do. Established in 1985, the Notable Trees Project, sponsored by the Connecticut Botanical Society, the Connecticut College Arboretum, and the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, collects and distributes information about Connecticut's largest and most historic trees, both native and introduced. The Town of Sharon has eight trees of note, including the largest American White Ash in the state, measuring 230 inches in circumference and 102 feet high. A full list of Sharon's notable trees is in Appendix VIII (p. 71).

Recommendations

1. Ensure that existing regulations protecting environmental quality, such as wetland regulations, are enforced. Consider developing additional regulations and guidelines to ensure quality of unique habitat.
2. Identify the biological effects of proposed development: Require land-use applications to prove, based on scientific fact, that an intended project will not cause long-term negative impacts. Require biological inventories for large development proposals to properly assess at-risk natural resources. Conduct these inventories during the growing season to evaluate possible impacts.
3. Encourage nonfragmented habitat: Promote nonfragmentation or isolation of habitats. Discourage deep driveway cuts and fills, clearing of forest understory, and vast expanses of lawn.
4. When designating a land corridor, land use and cover type should be evaluated at a regional scale.
5. Promote development that favors open space, using such means as set-aside requirements, cluster development, buffer zones for land adjoining existing protected open space, and so forth.

The elms of Sharon! The very words bring before the mind's eye the typical New England street—the long wide, shady stretch upon which the sober, substantial residences front, each originally with its home-lot running back indefinitely, and with a wood-lot somewhere in the distant rear. . .

General Charles A. Sedgewick
History of Sharon, 1842

6. Vernal pools: Work with the community to inventory and map vernal pools.
7. Listed species: The Town of Sharon and CT Department of Environmental Protection should work closely with applicants proposing development in areas containing listed species. Sharon planning agencies should consult the Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) upon receipt of applications for development or other projects that may affect the habitat of listed species. The Town of Sharon may research state and federal endangered species legislation to see if any legislation can be enacted at the local level to mandate the protection of endangered species and their habitats.
8. Work together with environmental and land protection organizations such as Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Housatonic River Commission, Housatonic Valley Association, Sharon Land Trust, Weantinogue Land Trust, and others to continue to evaluate Sharon's habitats, develop a universal approach to conservation strategies, and identify key areas in need of protection.
9. Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of or easements on fragile and unique areas.
10. The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on how to:
 - a. Work with community members to reduce pesticide and fertilizer use.
 - b. Institute proactive efforts to identify and acquire key undeveloped and unpro-

tected parcels of land and work with landowners to educate them as to the importance of their property and where it may lie in the context of larger natural resource features.

- c. Control invasives: Make lists of state-banned invasive plants available to Town residents, enforce this legislation, and identify and control the sale and use of invasive and potentially invasive plants specific to Sharon.

SOIL TYPES

There are 106 individual soil types found in Sharon, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). These soils occur in Sharon in one of four soil associations. These associations, and their sizes and locations, are as follows:

1. *Stockbridge-Farmington-Amenia Association*. Soils occurring on gently to steeply sloping hills. These soils formed in glacial till, but include shallow depth to bedrock areas in upland regions. Most of the soils in this association are moderately to well drained, but do include poorly and very poorly drained wetland soils. This association occurs in the northwestern section of Sharon in carbonate bedrock covering 34% of the Town.
2. *Hollis-Charlton Association*. Soils occurring on gently to steeply sloping hills. These soils formed in glacial till and are predominantly shallow depth to bedrock. Most of the soils in this association are well drained, but do include poorly and very poorly drained wetland soils. This association occurs in southern Sharon and covers about 29% of the Town.
3. *Charlton-Paxton-Hollis Association*. Soils formed in glacial till on upland areas. A large percentage of the soils include a layer of hardpan. The majority of the soils are well drained, but also included in the association are poorly and very poorly drained wetland soils. This association is found in the central section of Sharon and covers about 28% of the Town.
4. *Copake-Groton-Genesee Association*. Soils formed on river terraces and flood plains. Most of the soils of the association are well or extremely well drained soils, but also include poorly and very poorly drained wetland soils. This association occurs along the Housatonic River in Sharon and is a part of the carbonate bedrock section of the river. The association covers roughly 9% of the Town.

The location of the various soils in Town have been mapped in detail by the NRCS during 2004–5. A display map of soil types can be found in Town Hall.

The NRCS has also developed, and periodically updates, interpretations and limitations information for the soils for various land uses. A soil's physical, chemical, and morphological properties determine its limitations or capacities for efficient absorption when the land is used for fields, home sites, lawns, cropland, road construction, forest growth, or other uses. State statutes allow information on soils to be used both as a basis for zoning and in enforcement of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands Act.

Soils affect other resources: soils help in flood-water storage, define prime and important farmlands, are closely associated with forest growth, and affect water quality. Specific information for soil types found in Sharon is available at the Town Hall. A database from NRCS describing soils and their characteristics have been given to the Town. Experts encourage the use of soils information in making land-use management decisions and policies.

Recommendations

1. Research and adopt soil-based zoning.

LAND COVER

Land cover is a significant contributor to the rural character of Sharon. The diversity of cover, from mature forests to shrub land to fields, supports myriad forms of wildlife, adds to the aesthetic quality of our Town, and is economically important in terms of goods produced and tourist dollars generated.

Forest Land

Much, if not all, of Sharon's forest land is second-growth forest. Many of the old stone walls indicating active farming operations can still be seen amid mature stands of trees. In 1820, only 25% of Connecticut was forested. Today, Connecticut is about 60% forested. Litchfield County is the most heavily forested county in the state, at 75%.

Sharon is 71% forested, with a total of 27,082 forested acres (see the map on p. 44). The vast majority of this acreage is deciduous forest (23,124 acres.) Coniferous forest makes up 2,596 acres, and forested wetlands make up 1,005 acres. Sharon is generally considered to be in the transitional hardwood forest zone that covers the extreme northwestern corner of Connecticut. Red oak, basswood, white ash, and black birch are typically found here. But as the name implies, trees characteristic of the northern hardwoods zone, such as the sugar maple and yellow birch, are also found. Some of Connecticut's most commercially valuable forests exist in its northwestern corner.

Sharon's forests, especially those away from pressures such as road salts and root compaction, generally seem to be in good health. However, many foresters are concerned with the cumulative effects of factors like acid rain, introduced insects, and extended periods of drought on the health of tree species. "Diseases" caused by these multiple factors are commonly referred to as "dieback" or "decline" and can be seen in such tree species as the Sugar Maple and the American White Ash. There is currently a threat to Sharon's Hemlock forests from the woolly adelgid, a recently discovered introduced insect, which has caused widespread mortality in Hemlocks in other parts of the state.

Forest gracing the banks of Ford Pond. Photo by Jonathan Doster.



The beautiful village of Sharon, lying picturesquely along one of the broad natural terraces which form the western slopes of the Southern spurs of the Berkshire Hills, is not one of the earliest settlements of Connecticut. A few stragglers, most from the banks of the Hudson River, had reared their temporary homes in this vicinity from time to time, but these had for the most part faded away when the township was laid out, in 1733, and it was not until several years after this that there were enough inhabitants to justify an application to the Assembly for an act of incorporation. Hence it would hardly be expected that papers relating to the earliest colonial periods should be found here. But the earliest settlers of Sharon were not fresh immigrants from the pioneer colonists of New England, and naturally brought with them some of the relics and records that their parents and grandparents had accumulated.

Helen Evertson Smith
Colonial Days & Ways



Wetlands of Bog Meadow Pond. Photo by Jonathan Doster.

This aphid sucks the sap of young twigs, causing complete defoliation within a few years. Research is underway at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on a biological control. If not controlled, Sharon's Hemlock forests, such as the one to the south of Route 4 between Mitcheltown Road and the Sharon Audubon Center, may be lost.

The state owns 4,618 acres of forest in Sharon, including the Housatonic State Forest (4095.2 acres), Housatonic Meadows State Park (471.9 acres) and the Sharon Mountain Wildlife

Management Area (51 acres). Nonprofit conservation organizations such as the National Audubon Society and Sharon Land Trust control approximately 3,900 acres of forest land. The rest is privately owned, leaving it vulnerable to development and fragmentation.

Litchfield County contains the state's greatest proportion of forest blocks greater than 2,500 acres. Large expanses of unfragmented forests contribute greatly to wildlife habitat and ecological stability and are especially beneficial to neotropical migratory birds (see map, p. 44). Large blocks of forests are also a leading factor in the return of large mammals such as the Black Bear. Data suggest that forests of northwest Connecticut are less fragmented than anywhere else in the state (USDA).

Forest resources contribute to fuelwood and timber production, watershed protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Effective forest management is the key to protecting this renewable resource. Good management can be beneficial to wildlife, improve timber value, diversify tree species and provide revenue. Several technical assistance programs have been developed to help private landowners manage their forests (see Appendix X, p. 73).

In 1963, the Connecticut General Assembly passed what is commonly referred to as Public Act 490. In the Declaration of Policy it is stated "(a) that it is in the public interest to encourage the preservation of farm land, forest land and open space land ... (b) that it is in the public interest to prevent the forced conversion of farm land, forest land and open space land to more intensive uses as the result of economic pressures caused by the assessment thereof for purposes of property taxation at values incompatible with their preservation as such farm land, forest land and open space land..." As of 2004, to get this designation, a landowner with 25 acres or more of forest land is required to employ a private forester, trained and qualified by the State Forester, to examine the land and prepare a Qualified Forester's Report on the land. That report must accompany the owner's application to the local assessor for "Forest Land" classification. Currently, 13,828 acres of land are being taxed as forest land through this program.

Another act passed since the 1982 report is the Forest Practices Act. Through this legislation, it was

made a matter of law that “no person shall advertise, solicit, contract or engage in commercial forest practices within this state at any time without a certificate” issued by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Through the certification process, the Division of Forestry seeks to improve the quality of forestry practiced in Connecticut’s woodlands; protect private woodland owners from poorly qualified or unscrupulous foresters, loggers, or other forest practitioners; and provide a means of assessing the types of forest activities occurring within the state. It is generally agreed by foresters that though improved, forest areas in Connecticut—including those in Sharon—are not yet reaching their full production potential.

Recommendations

1. Support the state’s P.A. 490 program as it relates to forest land.
2. The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on:
 - a. The economic, biological, and aesthetic benefits of sound forest management.
 - b. Resources and assistance available to landowners wishing to manage their forests.
3. Develop an open space plan for the Town of Sharon, using the protection of large blocks of unfragmented forests as a criterion.
4. Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of forest land or easements on forest land.

Agricultural Resources

Prior to the establishment of the Town of Sharon in 1739, land cover consisted primarily of forests, with some openings created for agriculture and some created by natural events such as fire. With the advent of the iron industry in the 1700s, forests began to be cleared for the production of charcoal. When iron production slowed and then ceased at the turn of the twentieth century, farming operations took advantage of the cleared forest land to produce crops and graze livestock. This trend continued until about 1960. During this time as much as 28,000 acres of land, or 75% of Sharon’s land

The stretch of country surrounding Sharon, within a radius of a few miles, embraces an unusual variety between sylvan pastoral views and the wildest mountain scenery. There are many beautiful lakes in this vicinity. The same wide, long street remains that was laid out in 1739, this shady avenue, with its handsome residences, and lawns, not left to the clipping of four-footed residents. There are elms which the settlers must have planted when they first came.

Myron B. Benton
Connecticut Magazine
September 1899

base, was in the form of farms or fields. From this point forward, however, the number of farms and acreage in farms and fields plummeted. It is currently estimated that 7,821 acres, or 20.5%, are either in farm production or consist of some form of field, whether mowed or in varying stages of succession.

Agriculture is a significant part of Connecticut’s heritage and economy, yet in the last one hundred years, the area of land in Connecticut devoted to agriculture has dropped from 80% to 12%. Between 1983 and 1993 the state lost 80,000 acres of farmland, and it continues to lose farmland at a rate of 8,000 acres per year. At this rate, by the year 2047 there will be no remaining farmland that is not already protected.

The loss of farmers and farms continues in Sharon. Seven major farming operations have gone out of business since the last NRI report was published in 1982. Neighboring farms are working some of the land previously farmed independently, and large farms from out of town are leasing farmland in Sharon for hay and corn production. Unless action is taken to preserve this important resource, it is only a matter of time before farmland succumbs to development pressures. Sharon currently has nine full-time commercial farming



Sharon youth whittling some time away. Indian Mountain in background. Photo by C. R. Pancoast, c. 1893.

operations producing dairy, fruit, and vegetable products, in addition to several smaller operations that include horse farms, nurseries, and the like.

The agricultural resources of Sharon are defined by two sets of criteria: land use and soil type. Areas used for orchards, nurseries, vegetable farms, vineyards, pastures, farm buildings and facilities, hayfields, grain crops, pens, corrals, and paddocks, and poultry farms are agricultural by land use. The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service and Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection define *prime farmland* as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, and fiber and oilseed crops and is also available for these purposes (i.e., undeveloped). The land may be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not built-up land or water. Prime farmland has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to modern farming methods. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time.

Typically, they do not flood during the growing season or are protected from flooding. *Farmland of statewide importance* is defined as lands that are "nearly prime farmland and that produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to modern farming methods." Under the right conditions, these areas can produce as well as prime farmlands. The location of prime and important agricultural soils in Sharon, as well as land currently in agricultural production, is indicated on the map on page 46.

With property values increasing significantly, large land parcels being purchased at an alarming rate, and farm communities decreasing across both the county and state, the Town of Sharon must protect its existing farming operations and develop ways to stimulate agriculture in the Town. Preserving agricultural land will help maintain the rural character of Sharon, contribute to our economy, and preserve this part of our cultural heritage.

Eight farms totaling 1,110 acres of farmland have been protected through the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program, which has purchased the development rights. Under this

program, the State places a permanent restriction on a farm that preserves an agricultural land base for future generations. Emphasis is on trying to preserve active farms that are clustered with other farms, therefore stabilizing a viable farming region. Unfortunately, due to increasing development pressure throughout the state, requests for these funds have risen dramatically in recent years, far outpacing the program's funding capacity. Several farms in Town remain on a waiting list to take advantage of the program. Contact information for this program and other resources to help farmers and preserve farmland can be found in Appendix X (p. 73). A comparison of PDR programs available in Connecticut is shown in Appendix XI (p. 76).

Recommendations

1. Educate, encourage, and assist farmers to submit applications to the Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program.
2. Continue to support the P.A. 490 program: Section 12-107 of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes communities to assess farmland at a lower value when it is actively farmed. While not a true preservation program, it does help farmers by lowering their tax liability, helping to maintain the viability of the farm under difficult economic conditions.
3. Consider agriculture zoning: This has been done by other Towns in Connecticut to retain viable agricultural areas.
4. Adopt a "Right to Farm" policy/ordinance: This policy would support agricultural activities and protect farmers from nuisance complaints from neighbors in proximity to their farms.
5. The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on:
 - a. Services provided to farmers through the state's "Connecticut Grown" program and other state and federally supported programs.
 - b. The New Connecticut Farmer Initiative, which encourages landowners to lease land to local farmers.
 - c. Managing former agricultural land for birds and other wildlife.

6. Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of agricultural land or easements on agricultural land.
7. Support neighboring Towns in their farm preservation efforts. Maintaining farm communities within a region will go far in helping individual farms in Sharon.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

Selection of Historical Resources for Mapping

More than 75 sites of archaeological and historical interest, including the Town's eight historic cemeteries, are identified on the Natural Resources Study Map "Archaeological, Historical, and Architectural Resources" (p. 48). Sites were chosen for the map based on factual evidence collected from the references cited at the conclusion of this document. The highest concentrations of these sites are located in the village hubs, including Main Street and the Green, Calkinstown, Sharon Valley, Ellsworth, and Amenia Union.

Pre-Settlement Inhabitants/ Native American Presence

The first people to traverse the area that is now Sharon were the nomadic Paleo-Indians and then the Archaic Period Indians, who came into the area following the retreat of the glaciers. Well before the arrival of Dutch or English settlers, a substantial community of Native Americans occupied portions of modern Sharon. Their principal village stood on the eastern edge of Indian Lake, where they had cleared considerable acreage. Others resided in the valley of Ten Mile River (Webutuck Creek) and on a hillside overlooking Mudge Pond (now Silver Lake Shores). An age-old Indian trail connected Wechquadnach (Indian Pond) with Schaghticokes (Kent). Workmen constructing the Hotchkiss Brothers factory in Sharon Valley in the mid-nineteenth century uncovered an Indian burial site there.

Main Street—Village Hub—Historic District

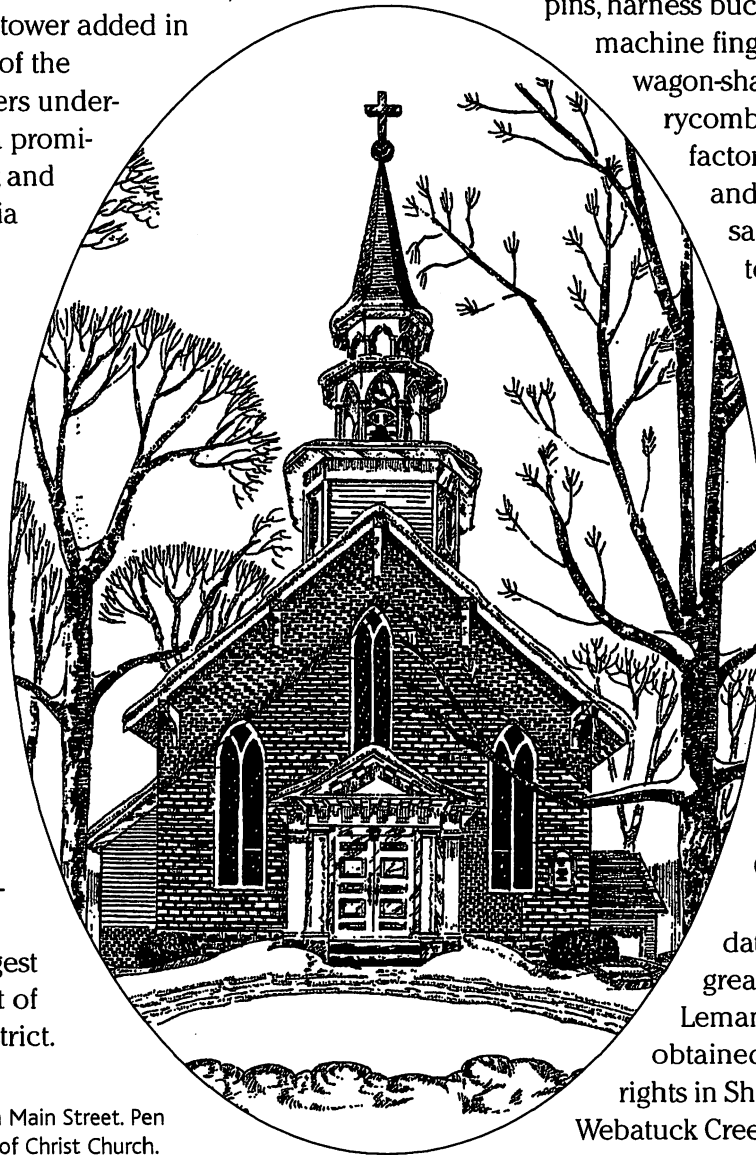
As early as 1815 Sharon was termed “a considerable village... comprising 50–60 dwelling houses, several of which are neat and handsome,” along with two churches, a post office, and several mercantile stores. Maps from the 1850s identify the Congregational, Methodist, and Episcopal churches, a blacksmith, wagon shop, three stores, attorney’s and physician’s offices, jewelry shop, harness shop, school, and other services, mostly located in the one-mile stretch along Sharon’s Green.

In the 1870s, George Gager spurred a plan to plant four rows of elms on Gay Street and the Green, giving it a parklike appearance. Isaac Bartram erected a new Town Hall in 1875, with a mansard-roofed tower added in 1884. At the south end of the Green, the Wheeler sisters underwrote construction of a prominent stone clock tower; and in 1893, a gift from Maria Bissell Hotchkiss led to the building of the impressive Hotchkiss Library.

Building lots surrounding the green began filling in, with several new homes constructed by contractor William Mow. The village evolved into a fashionable shopping district as well, with numerous stores and artisans, apothecaries and professional offices.

Today, both the original village hub and the Green, which is the largest in Connecticut, are part of the Sharon Historic District.

Christ Church Episcopal, South Main Street. Pen and ink by Hendriks, courtesy of Christ Church.



While the churches, Town Hall, Hotchkiss Library, the Civil War monument, and the clock tower still preside over Main Street, what once encompassed the shopping district of the Town now features mainly residential properties. Businesses in and adjacent to the historic district include a florist, gift shop, two restaurants, a liquor store, car repair shop, and many physicians’ offices.

Sharon Valley Historic District and Industrial History

Between 1780 and 1900, Sharon Valley supported a wide range of industrial activity. In 1829, Asahel Hotchkiss began production of home, farm, and utilitarian items from local iron—rakes, oxbow pins, harness buckles and snaps, mowing machine fingers, monkey wrenches,

wagon-shaft couplings, and cur-rycombs. By 1850 the Hotchkiss factory employed nine hands and produced \$25,000 of saleable goods. In addition

to the Sharon Valley furnace and the Hotchkiss factory, Sharon Valley was also home to the Jewett Manufacturing Company, which had been formed initially to produce the mousetrap invented by Joseph Bostwick in the early nineteenth century.

Sharon Valley, Sharon’s industrial center, soon earned the nickname “Mousetrap Capital of the World.”

Sharon’s iron industry, dating to 1740, received a great boost in 1822 when Lemam Bradley of Falls Village obtained land and waterpower rights in Sharon Valley along Webatuck Creek for the purpose of

constructing a blast furnace, the first in Town. By 1825 Bradley's workers had built a large dam, creating a ten-acre pond, along with a 1,500-foot race with overshot wheel and pumping station to power the blast. The Sharon Valley furnace, constructed of Stockbridge marble, was enlarged and converted to hot blast in 1863. In the early 1870s, the Sharon Valley Iron Company (owned by the Barnum and Richardson Company) acquired the furnace. Ultimately, the iron industry faced severe and finally insurmountable obstacles. The close of the Civil War brought an end to government orders; however, the Sharon Valley Iron Company continued to produce iron for railroad car wheels. But iron for wheels alone was not enough, and furnaces began to close, including the ironworks in Sharon Valley in 1898.



Hotchkiss Library, Upper Main Street, c. 1920. Photo by George M. Marckres. Courtesy of Sharon Historical Society.

Calkinstown Historic District

The Calkinstown road runs in an easterly direction from Gay Street (Route 41) to the junction of White Hollow Road (the Lime Rock Road.) The earliest reference to the road now named Calkinstown Road appears in the Town Record of land transfers in 1780, when Stephen Calkin, Sr., the original owner of home lots #31 and #35 at the time of Sharon's incorporation in 1739, granted "forty acres including the house and barn where I now live" to his son Amos Calkin. In the description he refers to a "boundary line running west by the highway that goes by my house."

By the nineteenth century Calkinstown was a manufacturing center, with factories making stoves and tools operating at several locations on the north side of the road along Beardsley Pond Brook

(then called Sprague Pond Brook). Calkinstown became an iron-making center between 1845 and 1856, when Captain Hiram Weed operated one of two blast furnaces in Town, using water from Beardsley Pond to power the blast. Captain Weed's home on the north side of Calkinstown Road later became the first Sharon Hospital.

Ellsworth and the Ellsworth Society

Very early in the history of Sharon, the area known as Ellsworth developed an identity separate from that of the larger Town, culminating in the establishment of a second ecclesiastical society in 1800. Ellsworth also supported Reverend Daniel Parker's large boarding school (est. 1805), where within three years 200 young men came to study from as far away as Ohio, Maine, and Virginia. Construction of the Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in 1803 increased traffic through the settlement, which by mid-century supported two churches, two district schools, two sawmills, a gristmill, blacksmith shop, cemetery, doctor's office, and two stores. Ellsworth's Methodist church building, an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture, was erected shortly after 1839. A recent effort to establish the Ellsworth section of Sharon as a Historic District was not approved.



The Gay-Hoyt House, Main Street, built in 1775 by Ebenezer Gay. Home of Sharon Historical Society. Photo by Hugh Vaughan. Courtesy of Sharon Historical Society.

Sharon Along the Housatonic

Sharon's Main Street lies in the west-central portion of Town, but, geographically speaking, the greatest portion of Sharon lies to the east of Main Street and runs to the Town line in the middle of the Housatonic River. All the bridges along this border, current and former, are half in Sharon and half in Cornwall. Housatonic Meadows State Park is located in Sharon, and across Route 7 from the park campgrounds was once the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp.

Sharon's Northeast Corner and the Clay Beds

The northeast corner of Sharon was the site of four important activities: charcoal making for fuel for the local blast furnaces, including the Lime Rock Iron Co., Barnum and Richardson, Weeds Furnace, and the Sharon Valley Iron Co.; farming; the quarrying of quartzite for the production of hearthstone

for blast furnaces; and the mining of kaolin (clay produced by the weathering of quartzite). Kaolin from the "clay beds" was used primarily to make porcelain (china), pottery, and paper. Large portions of Mine Mountain and Mount Easter became part of the Housatonic State Forest following the cessation of local iron production in 1925.

Sharon as a Travel Destination and the Rise of the Second-Home Community

After the Civil War and through the 1930s, recreational pursuits attained ever greater importance, until they ranked among the region's most significant characteristics. Such activities included both amenities serving local residents and those that attracted visitors, summer vacationers, and estate owners.

Sharon attracted a substantial vacation community, and between 1880 and 1920 wealthy visitors purchased and refurbished several older homes and erected a series of Colonial Revival-style man-

sions on the south end of the Green. Business magnate Romulus Riggs Colgate engaged architect J. William Cromwell to design "Filston," an enormous Italianate palazzo set on nearly 300 acres just west of the intersection of Main Street and Route 4/343.

The same factors that inspired affluent families to create substantial vacation homes also underlay establishment of a thriving resort hotel trade. The Sharon Inn, a large frame building, stood at the south end of the Town Green across from the clock tower and did a brisk business. On Upper Main Street, the Bartram Inn still stands, now apartments. In some cases, local residents built small cottages at the rear of their village properties so that they could rent their homes to summer visitors. These cottages are evident in Main Street architecture.

Architectural Resources*

The abundance of historic homes is one of the reasons New England Towns like Sharon are charming and desirable places in which to live. Sharon's earliest surviving framed habitations fall into one of the three most common eighteenth-century housing styles: the Cape Cod, the Saltbox, and the New England Farmhouse.

Sharon possesses a number of fine early Cape Cods, situated in nearly all corners of the Town. Examples of the Cape Cod include the circa 1754 Wood/White House at 121 White Hollow Road (IF#155) and the circa 1760 Daniel St. John House at 6 Old Sharon Road #1 (IF#116). A larger, more elaborate example is the circa 1760 gambrel-roofed John/Jonathan Sprague House at 257 Gay Street (IF#73).

Examples of the Saltbox, a style that usually contained at least two chambers on the second floor and additional storage space under the rear roof, include the circa 1756 Peter Cartwright House at 124 East Street (IF#54). Examples of the typical New England Farmhouse include the circa 1750 Youngs/Peck House at 3 Dunbar Road (IF#46) and its near neighbor, the circa 1748 Jonathan Lord

* "IF" numbers in this section refer to inventory numbers assigned to properties by the *Historic and Architectural Resource Survey of Sharon, 2000*.

Sharon, like Litchfield, is to be savored, it is remarkably like Litchfield in appearance and has been populated by people of distinction and discernment. Curiously however, the town history has never been compiled save for a sketchy early work by Charles Sedgwick... A certain Joseph Bostwick, however, built a simple household contrivance so much better than that of any of his competitors that the world duly beat a path to his door and Sharon enjoyed fame as the Mousetrap Capital of the Universe. Another inventive genius, young Andrew Hotchkiss, virtually paralyzed from birth, first fashioned himself mechanical aids, perfected numerous other devices, designed the adjustable wrench, the double-headed ax-bow pin, the locomotive snow plow, and various improvements relating to projectiles which resulted in the Hotchkiss repeating rifle and air cooled machine gun. His brother Benjamin became head of Hotchkiss and Company which started in Sharon at the site of an old Indian burial ground on Webotuck Stream.

Willard A. Hanna

The Berkshire-Litchfield Legacy (1983)

House at 13 Dunbar Road (IF#50). Number 12 Old Sharon Road #1 was built in the 1760s by Deacon Silas St. John (IF#117), while portions of 130 Sharon Mountain Road, the home of John Swain, may date to circa 1745 (IF#128). The circa 1765 Amos Marchant House at 316 Gay Street is a particularly fine example built of brick masonry, one of only a few such structures in the entire Town (IF#75).

The Federal, Greek Revival, and Gothic styles of architecture dominated the period between 1780 and 1860. The Dr. John Sears House at 70 Jackson Hill Road (IF#81) is one of the best surviving

examples of the Federal style, exhibiting a high level of decorative detail. Two other excellent examples are the circa 1802–1808 Caleb Cole House at 28 Cole Road (IF#29) and the circa 1815 Samuel Roberts House at 128 Calkinstown Road (IF#24). By 1830, Federal architecture began giving way to buildings designed in the newer Greek Revival idiom. There are many examples of Greek Revival style in Sharon, including the particularly lovely home at 90 Calkinstown Road, with a wonderful recessed entry, built of brick for Hiram Weed circa 1850 (IF#22). More modest versions of the revival style are seen in cottages throughout Sharon built between 1840 and 1855. The William Northrop House at 31 Northrop Road in Ellsworth (IF#115) is one good example.

One of the region's most impressive Georgian homes stands on the South Green in Sharon, begun in 1765 by Dr. Simeon Smith (1735–1804.) Simeon Smith's house was on the route followed through Sharon when Burgoyne's army, as prisoners of war, was marched into Connecticut. On that occasion, while the army was encamped for the night in the meadow across the street, the American officers dined at Weatherstone. In 1779 and 1780, a group of physicians from Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut met at the house as the "First Medical Society" in the new United States. John Cotton Smith, governor of Connecticut during the War of 1812, lived here when he led, and lost, the post-war fight against the adoption of the constitution of 1818 that brought about the belated separation of church and state in Connecticut. The house, which became known as Weatherstone after 1938, is a monumental three-story, five-bay stone Georgian manor house (National Register) incorporating a double hipped roof, dormers, Chinese Chippendale balustrade, Palladian window in the west elevation, broken pediment over a former entry, and peaked gable with wheel window above the entry. The house was devastated by fire on January 22, 1999, and has subsequently been restored to its former grandeur.

Evidence of the Gothic Revival style of architecture is illustrated in Sharon's Episcopal church, completed in 1819 and incorporating pointed-arch windows in the nave; while the circa 1863 offices of the Sharon Valley Iron Company feature quatrefoil

ornaments in the gable peak, a steeply pitched cross-gable roof, molded window caps, and an open porch with cusped bargeboard.

Many vernacular Victorian-era homes were built in Sharon after 1880. Nice examples include the circa 1888 Henry Worrell House at 105 Amenia Road (IF#2), and the circa 1893 Robert Harris House at 40 Gay Street (IF#63). These houses exhibit the elaborate porches, decorative shingle work, and bay windows characteristic of the Victorian style. The handsome Hotchkiss Library is a stunning example of the Romanesque style popularized by Boston architect H. H. Richardson. Built in 1893, the Hotchkiss Library was the work of architect Bruce Price (1845–1903), designer of New York's Tuxedo Park vacation community. The library is defined by its random rock-faced ashlar masonry and rounded entry arch. The nearby Wheeler memorial clock tower is also of Romanesque style.

Litchfield County was a bastion of Colonial Revival architecture, and Sharon was favored by this school of architecture based on American architectural precedents of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The South Green in Sharon contains approximately two dozen contiguous Colonial Revival-style estates, many begun as farmhouses generations earlier but enlarged and remodeled circa 1890–1920, with ornate Georgian doorways, broken scroll pediments, elaborate porticos, and ornate gateposts.

Sharon's visual appeal hinges not only on its great natural beauty, but also on the charm of its built environment. These tangible historic resources—Sharon's houses, monuments, cemeteries, public buildings, and industrial remains—are a visible reminder of a vibrant past.

Recommendations

1. The locations of archaeological sites should be identified on Town maps as resource areas that require archaeological surveys before development.
2. Sharon's historic built environment should be acknowledged and/or protected when making decisions about future Town growth and development.



Mudge Pond from Route 41 near Sharon/Salisbury town line. Painting by Eric Forstmann © 2001. Courtesy of Ellen Sykes. All rights reserved.

OPEN SPACE

Open space is a collective term for those protected and unprotected natural areas that are largely undeveloped and that have important ecological functions, natural resources, or cultural resources worthy of protection. Such areas may contain—but are not limited to—forests, farmlands, old fields, floodplains, and wetlands. They may also encompass scenic vistas, recreational areas, and historic sites.

Open space is defined in Connecticut State Statute Section 12-107b as “any area of land, including forest land, land designated as wetland under Section 22a-30 and not excluding farm land, the preservation or restriction of the use of which would (1) maintain and enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources, (2) protect natural streams or water supply, (3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes, (4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or

neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open areas, (5) enhance public recreation opportunities, (6) preserve historic sites, or (7) promote orderly urban or suburban development.”

The Town of Sharon consists of varied topography and landscapes. Hilly and mountainous in the east, the lands range to rolling uplands in the west. The latter, along with adjoining New York lands, are part of a large valley running north and south. Numerous streams are found throughout Sharon, and the Town’s eastern border is defined in its entirety by the Housatonic River. Throughout this diverse landscape are large natural areas, free from development, that support numerous and unique habitats, scenic vistas, forests, clean water, meadows, tillable lands, and so forth. The nature and diversity of these areas draw and hold those of us who choose to live in Sharon; and these “open spaces” create the Town’s rural character, held dear by residents and visitors alike.

Sharon's first natural resources inventory, in 1982, limited its identification of open space to protected parcels, or what was referred to as "Committed Resources." The criteria was: "Any federal, state, or municipal lands: any public utility or institutional lands (including land trusts, the National Audubon, churches), [and lands with protective easements] that are expected to remain in their present use in the foreseeable future. Public access to these lands may range from restricted to unrestricted."² In 1982, 7,335 acres of committed resources or protected open space was identified. As of 2004, protected open space lands total approximately 10,920 acres and represent 28% of Sharon's total land base. These lands have been mapped and indexed within this document. Experts in the field of town planning have established that in order to retain a rural environment over the long term, 50% of land must be protected.

Objectives of the Natural Resources Inventory Committee include the identification of unprotected lands that qualify as open space. The Committee identified unprotected parcels of land 25 acres and larger for the purpose of listing and mapping within the Natural Resources Inventory.

²Sharon Natural Resources Plan, 1982, p.9.

These parcels are susceptible to considerable further subdivision in a Town that has but two-acre lot size residential zoning requirements. The NRI ad hoc committee also believes there are many parcels below the 25-acre threshold used in this document that also contribute to Sharon's overall open space.

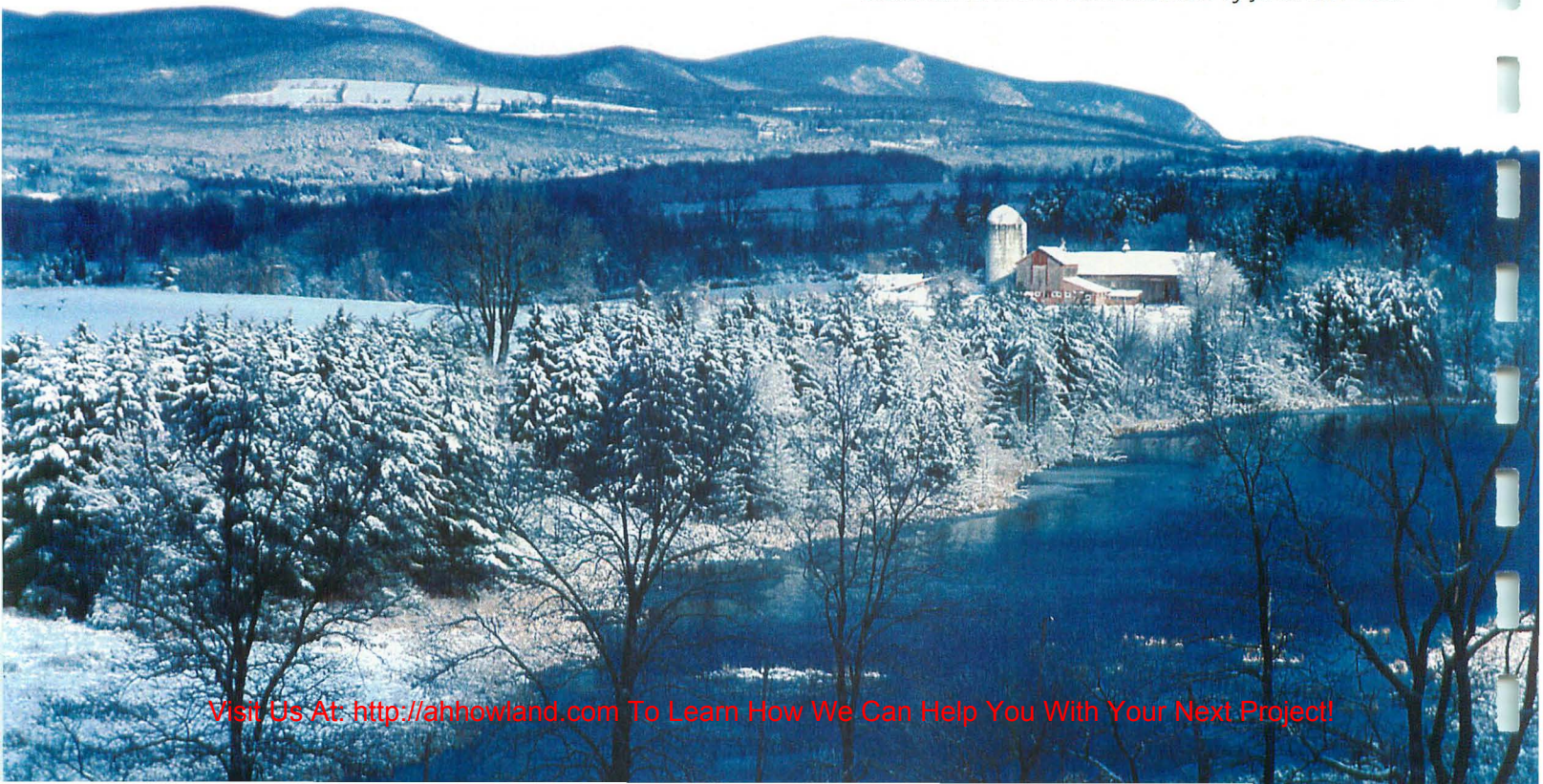
The map on page 44 identifies large unfragmented areas of land, linkages between protected open space areas that act as wildlife corridors or greenways, and areas that, if preserved, could improve the integrity of existing protected open space.

The documented identification of open space is invaluable as a tool and reference for planning and conservation, and to assist officials in land conservation strategies.

Recommendations

1. Develop an orderly approach to land protection within the town, beginning with the creation of an open space plan that identifies key areas which should be preserved to ensure the integrity of currently protected open space, maintain the rural and scenic character of the Town, discourage the fragmentation of large blocks of open space, protect critical habitat, and contribute to the

Grandview Farm after a blizzard. Photo by Jonathan Doster.



- recreational opportunities of Sharon's residents and visitors.
2. The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on:
 - a. How landowners can protect their family lands through bequests, donations, easements, and so forth.
 - b. Land preservation organizations that can help landowners preserve their land.
 3. Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of open space or easements on open space.
 4. Support the efforts of nonprofits (such as The Sharon Land Trust and Audubon Sharon) to preserve key open space through purchase or easements.

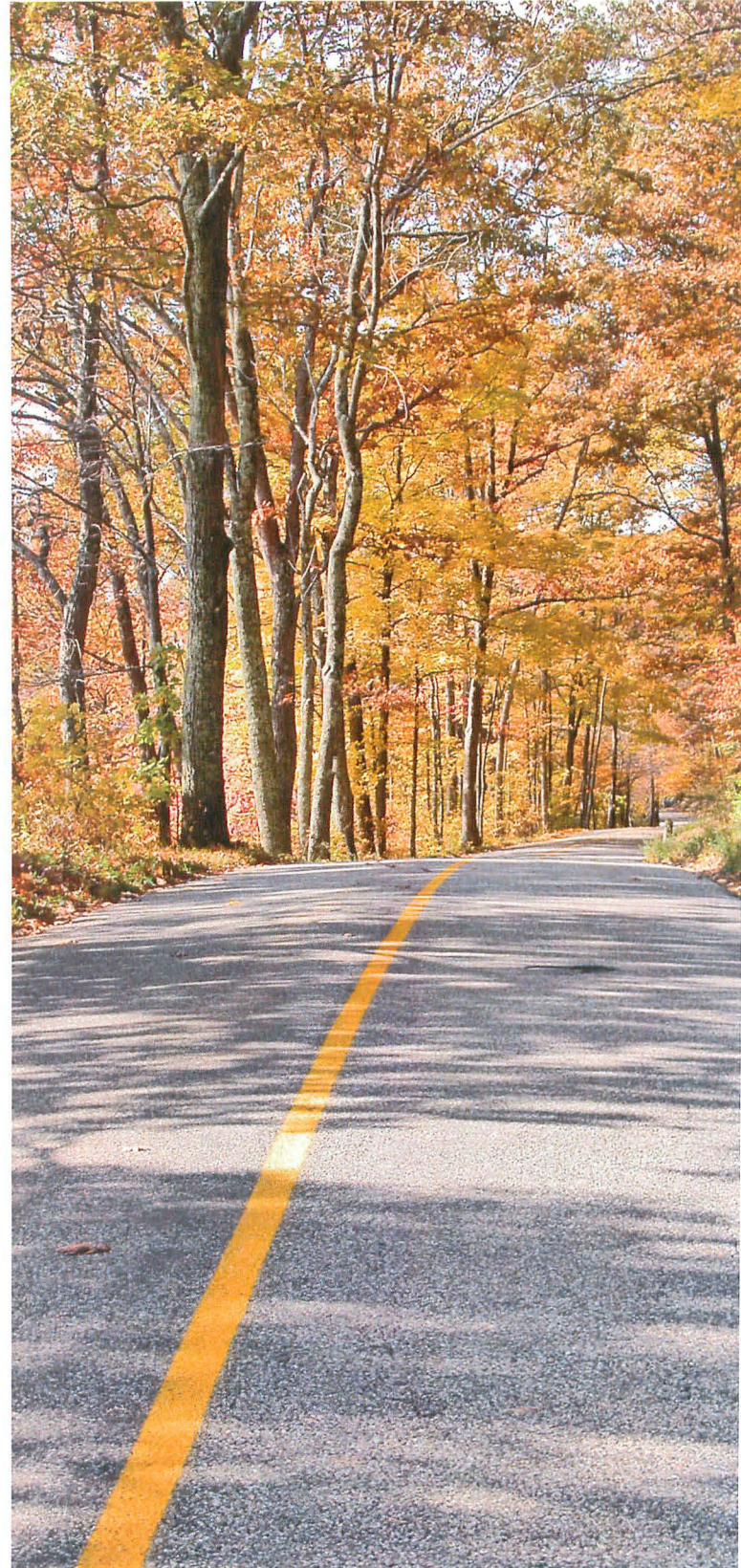
SCENIC VISTAS, AREAS, AND ROADS

For the purposes of this conservation inventory, a *scenic area* is defined as a field of vision that creates a remarkable landscape picture. *Vistas* represent long views, both framed and expansive. Because of the topography and the combination of fields, woods, and historic houses in Sharon, the Town has an enormous richness of scenic areas and vistas. A traveler can hardly drive on a road in Sharon without passing by a scenic area or vista. Indeed, the Town's natural beauty and scenic views are its principal asset. Our scenery and vistas enrich the spirits of all who see them, create monetary value for our property owners, and are the bedrock of the quality of rural life in Sharon.

Landscapes, however, cannot be frozen in time. Acknowledging that, it is our collective responsibility to manage change and future growth so as to minimize impact on Sharon's scenic areas and vistas.

Our most important scenic areas and vistas are those on our most frequently traveled roads—the gateway roads in and out of the Town. These are seen and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. They establish the rural character of Sharon. They are also among our most beautiful roads.

Following is a listing of some, but certainly not all, of the roads with important scenic areas and vistas in Sharon.



Autumn trees, West Cornwall Road. Photo by Aaron Haber.

This community which has been called the Ultima Thule of New England civilization (Noah Webster began his spelling book here), began today the celebration of its 200th birthday. From a platform on the Village Green beneath a grove of ancient elms and sugar maples, eight of the town's most eminent citizens saluted the glory of its trees and the traditions which Connecticut Yankees set store by.

**Homer Bigart
New York Herald
Tribune
August 6, 1938**



Looking north from the watering bowl at rows of elms on the Town Green, c. 1900. Photo by George M. Marckres. Courtesy of Sharon Historical Society.

Principle Gateway Roads to Sharon

- ◆ Route 41 from Lakeville-Salisbury border approximately 1 mile toward Sharon
- ◆ Route 41 from NY border to Boland Road
- ◆ Route 4 Johnson and Ellsworth farms area
- ◆ Western view on Route 4 between Joray Road and Butter Road
- ◆ Millerton Road from NY border to Lovers Lane
- ◆ Route 343 from NY border to Sharon Playhouse

Additional Gateway Roads to Sharon

- ◆ White Hollow Road, from Lakeville/Lime Rock border to Eggleston Road
- ◆ Skiff Mountain Road to Peck's Pond area, approach from Kent

Other Areas of Special Scenic Value

- ◆ East Street at Surdan Mountain Road area
- ◆ East Street at Upper Ridge Road
- ◆ Jackson Hill Road from Route 4 to Fairchild Road

- ◆ Sharon Mountain Road at Turkiewitz Farm
- ◆ Mudgetown and Mudge Pond Roads
- ◆ Benton Hill Road
- ◆ Route 7 from Cornwall Bridge to West Cornwall

State and Town Designated Scenic Roads

The many beautiful local roads are considered significant to the character of the region. Consequently, both the State of Connecticut and the Town of Sharon have statutes defining and setting up the process for legal designation of scenic roads.

In 1987 Connecticut enacted State Statute Section 13b-31c enabling Towns to pursue Scenic Road designation for state roads within the Town. Soon after, members of the Conservation Commission initiated the application process and compiled pictures, descriptions, and maps to present to the state authority. Consequently, Sharon became one of the first Towns in the state to have designated Scenic Roads. More roads have since been added, and at this time all of Route 41 within Sharon and portions of State Highways 7 and 4 have been designated as "State Scenic Roads."

In 1989 Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-149a granted Towns the authority to designate Town Roads or portions thereof as Town Scenic Roads. In accordance with that authority, the Conservation Commission drew up an ordinance which was approved by the voters and became effective on December 22, 1989. Sharon was the second Town in the state to approve a Scenic Road Ordinance. The defining qualities include road surface and the presence of stone walls and overhead canopy, as well as views and vistas. At this time Bowne Road, Butter Road, Herb Road, Cole Road, Modley Road, and West Woods Road #1 have been designated as Town Scenic Roads. Residents and other interested individuals can seek the approval of property owners abutting a road to initiate the process. Virtually all roads in Sharon meet the scenic road criteria, and we

anticipate that in the future more roads will be so designated.

Though these regulations are intended to help preserve the attractive qualities of a road, currently neither State nor Town Scenic Road designations restrict property owners along the road. However, both State and Town Statutes do require the road crews to preserve the quality of designated scenic roads. The roads can be maintained in all respects, but there are restrictions on changes in the road. On state scenic roads, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is required to warn the Town of proposed changes and consult with the Town on proposed resolutions. In the case of Town scenic roads, changes require balancing safety concerns with the interests of the property owners and include notification of all concerned, review by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and a public hearing.

The state and Town statutes deal with the designated road itself and not the scenic quality of the land along the road. Visible development along these roads can diminish their scenic quality until, over time, it may be lost completely. Scenic road designation is an important step. By establishing guidelines for scenic attributes and creating awareness of the significant character of the road, scenic road designation could become an important basis for preserving these desirable characteristics.

Recommendations

1. New Planning and Zoning regulations could reduce the impact of future development on the scenic value of these roads. For instance, setback requirements could be increased on scenic roads and screenings of natural plantings could be required.
2. It is important to maintain effective State-Town communication, as the DOT has taken some actions in the past without communication.
3. Planning and Zoning should investigate regulations to mitigate adverse impact on Town Scenic Roads in the event of future development.



Couple boating on Mudge Pond, June 1916. Photo by George M. Marckres. Courtesy of Sharon Historical Society.

RECREATION: RECREATIONAL AREAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The natural assets of the Town of Sharon and the active commitment of the Town have produced a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

The Town of Sharon owns several acres in Sharon Valley on Sharon Station Road. There are fields and courts for baseball, soccer, basketball, and tennis in addition to playgrounds and a pavilion. The Town organizes youth teams and programs, with instruction in many activities under the direction of the Recreation Commission. The area is available for organized activities and private use. Currently there are plans for additional facilities, including a community center, the feasibility of which is still being studied.

Sharon Center School also has playing fields, which were recently renovated. These are generally reserved for school use.

The Town Green is owned jointly by the State of Connecticut and the Town of Sharon and is used for special events.

The Town of Sharon has 10 miles of recreational easements on trails throughout the Town which were originally Town roads. In 1990 the Sharon Conservation Commission initiated legislation

which became part of the Connecticut General Statutes enabling Towns to keep a recreational easement when discontinuing a Town road. These trails are restricted to non-motorized use. Pursuant to Section 13a-141b, and with the approval of a Special Town Meeting, in January of 1993 the Selectmen discontinued the following roads (or sections thereof) excepting for recreational use: Morey Road, Joray Road, Cemetery Road, Hall Road, Caesar Road, Smith Road, Graham Road, Kings Hill Road #1, Fairchild Road, Surdan Mountain Road, Hosier Road, and an unnamed road from Cemetery Road to Joray Road (see Appendix XIII, p.80). The State statute and the Town ordinance both allow the Town to do whatever construction or maintenance is appropriate for the permitted uses. These trails are a valuable asset of the Town.

Housatonic State Forest (see maps, pp.82-83), on West Cornwall Road, has many miles of forest roads and recreational trails. This area is open all year and is used for many kinds of recreational activities, including horseback riding, hiking, and biking. In winter they are available for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and even mushing. There are also opportunities for many off-trail activities, including—but not limited to—hunting, fishing, nature walks, and orienteering.

In addition to the Town recreational easements and the trails within the state forest, there are many dirt roads that are used recreationally throughout Sharon. Potential exists for interconnecting these recreational roads and trails.

Mudge Pond, the largest body of water in Sharon, covers approximately 200 acres. The Town maintains a beach with a swimming area, docks, a playground, picnic area, and restroom facilities. Water-related lessons and programs are under the direction of the Recreation Commission. There is a state boat launch at the south end of the pond. The entire pond is used for boating, fishing, and various water sports in the summer. Ice fishing and other winter sports are also popular.



Country Spice (Myrtle Hayden, Bill Bachmann, and Alford Fretts) at the 2001 Sharon Audubon Festival. Photo by Walter Schwarz.



Girl's soccer at Sharon Veterans' Field. Photo by Brian Wilcox.

David Paton and Mark Clarke paddling a slalom racing canoe. Photo by Sandy Paton c. 1983.



Housatonic Meadows State Park (see maps, pp. 81–82) runs along the Housatonic River adjacent to Route 7. The park offers public access to the river and a boat launch. It is the only public camping area in the Town of Sharon and contains toilet and wash-room facilities. The river itself is used for canoeing, kayaking, rafting, fishing, and other water activities.

Twelve miles of the world-renowned Appalachian Trail run north and south on the east side of Sharon. The AT, part of the National Park Service park system, is well maintained and documented.

In addition to the Town and State lands, there are private lands that are regularly open to the public. The National Audubon Society is a nonprofit organization which owns approximately 1,950 acres in the Town of Sharon, including ponds, forests, and nature trails. Audubon Sharon operates a museum and visitor's center on its main campus, featuring exhibits on wildlife, educational programs, fairs, and demonstrations.

There are several other private groups that offer access to recreational opportunities within the Town. Each has its own set of membership requirements. The Sharon Country Club operates a golf course and tennis courts. Sharon Fish and Game, the Golden's Bridge Hunt, and the Isaac Walton Fishing Society each have individual membership requirements and arrangements for use of private lands.

Sharon's wonderfully scenic roads and rural character foster many individual recreational pursuits such as biking, hiking, boating, and horseback riding. To ensure that Sharon's wide diversity of recreational resources continues to exist in the future, each user must be responsible for knowing and upholding the rules. The wide range of activities throughout this beautiful countryside should be preserved for the future.



The elm and stone house at the end of Stone House Road, c. 1900. Photo by George M. Marckres. Courtesy of Sharon Historical Society.

Recommendations

1. Currently, property easements for recreational use are privately maintained. At some point it may become necessary for the Town or a private organization to take a more active role in maintaining these trails and roads.
2. Among all the assets of the Town, the recreational easements are particularly unique to Sharon. The Town still has the ability to add to these trails and interconnect them. Investigate the possibility of connecting trails and recreational roads using protected open space.*
3. Investigate the creation of easements through planned subdivisions to establish greenways that serve as both wildlife corridors and recreational trails.
4. It is important that property owners adjacent to recreational roads and trails are fully aware of their existence and do not do anything to obstruct them. In the future, it may be necessary to have a more systematic plan to enforce the regulations pertaining to Town-owned recreational easements.

*Among the goals expressed by the 1982 Sharon Natural Resource Task Force were to "Encourage recreational uses on presently committed resources lands" and "Planning and Zoning Commission to investigate and comment on outdoor recreational development on public utility, government, and other lands."

Recommendations Compiled by Topic

GEOGRAPHICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL, AND GEOLOGICAL

- ◆ In regions where any of our local bedrock formations crop out, care should be taken in the construction of roads and buildings and the drilling of wells.
- ◆ In the present period when rocks are selling for handsome profits, landowners must be encouraged not to disturb stone walls, foundations, and other archaeological remnants of Sharon's history.

SLOPES AND RIDGELINES

Slopes

- ◆ Development within areas of 15 to 25% slopes (category 2) should require architectural and site plan solutions for irregular terrain. Sedimentation and erosion control should also be required.
- ◆ Limit development of slopes over 20%.
- ◆ Slopes of greater than 25% should be excluded from calculations of building lot size.

Ridgelines

- ◆ Because only traprock ridgelines are directly protected by Connecticut state statutes, it is imperative that Planning and Zoning investigate methods used by other Towns to protect ridgeline development, even if those protections are limited in nature.

- ◆ Protect the viewable horizons of these ridgelines which are sometimes of greater importance than the ridgelines themselves.

WETLANDS AND AQUIFERS

- ◆ Ensure that existing regulations protecting environmental quality, such as wetland regulations, are enforced; consider developing additional regulations and guidelines to ensure quality of unique habitat.
- ◆ Extend buffer zones around Sharon's wetlands and watercourses and, wherever possible, other critical habitats.
- ◆ Exclude wetland areas from the calculation of a building lot.

FRAGILE AND UNIQUE AREAS

- ◆ Ensure that existing regulations protecting environmental quality, such as wetland regulations, are enforced. Consider developing additional regulations and guidelines to insure quality of unique habitat.
- ◆ Identify the biological effects of proposed development: Require land-use applications to prove, based on scientific fact, that an intended project will not cause long-term negative impacts. Require biological inventories for large development proposals to properly assess at-risk natural resources. Conduct these inventories during the growing season to evaluate possible impacts.

- ◆ Encourage nonfragmented habitat: Promote nonfragmentation or isolation of habitats. Discourage deep driveway cuts and fills, clearing of forest understory, and vast expanses of lawn.
- ◆ When designating a land corridor, land use and cover type should be evaluated at a regional scale.
- ◆ Promote development that favors open space, using such means as set-aside requirements, cluster development, buffer zones for land adjoining existing protected open space, and so forth.
- ◆ Vernal pools: Work with the community to inventory and map vernal pools.
- ◆ Listed species: The Town of Sharon and CT Department of Environmental Protection should work closely with applicants proposing development in areas containing listed species. Sharon planning agencies should consult the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) upon receipt of applications for development or other projects that may affect the habitat of listed species. The Town of Sharon may research state and federal endangered species legislation to see if there is any legislation that can be enacted at the local level to mandate the protection of endangered species and their habitat.
- ◆ Work together with environmental and land protection organizations such as Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Housatonic River Commission, Housatonic Valley Association, Sharon Land Trust, Weantinogue Land Trust, and others to continue to evaluate Sharon's habitats, develop a universal approach to conservation strategies, and identify key areas in need of protection.
- ◆ Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of or easements on fragile and unique areas.
- ◆ The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on how to:
 - a. Work with community members to reduce pesticide and fertilizer use.
 - b. Institute proactive efforts to identify and acquire key undeveloped and unprotected parcels of land and work with landowners to educate them as to the importance of their property and where it may lie in the context of larger natural resource features.
 - c. Control invasives: Make lists of state-banned invasive plants available to the Town, enforce this legislation, and identify and control the sale and use of invasive and potentially invasive plants specific to Sharon.

SOIL TYPES

- ◆ Research and adopt soil-based zoning.

LAND COVER

Forest Land

- ◆ Support the State's P.A. 490 program as it relates to forest land.
- ◆ The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on:
 - a. The economic, biological, and aesthetic benefits of sound forest management
 - b. Resources and assistance available to landowners wishing to manage their forests.
- ◆ Develop an open space plan for the Town of Sharon, using the protection of large blocks of unfragmented forests as a criterion.
- ◆ Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of forest land or easements on forest land.

Agricultural Resources

- ◆ Educate, encourage, and assist farmers to submit applications to the Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program.
- ◆ Continue to support the P.A. 490 program:

Section 12-107 of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes communities to assess farmland at a lower value when it is actively farmed. While not a true preservation program, it does help farmers by lowering their tax liability, helping to maintain the viability of the farm under difficult economic conditions.

- ◆ Consider agriculture zoning: This has been done by other Towns in Connecticut to retain viable agricultural areas.
- ◆ Adopt a "Right to Farm" policy/ordinance: This policy would support agricultural activities and protect farmers from nuisance complaints from neighbors in proximity to their farms
- ◆ The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on:
 - a. Services provided to farmers through the state's "Connecticut Grown" program and other state and federally supported programs.
 - b. The New Connecticut Farmer Initiative, which encourages landowners to lease land to local farmers.
 - c. Managing former agricultural land for birds and other wildlife.
- ◆ Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of agricultural land or easements on agricultural land.
- ◆ Support neighboring Towns in their farm preservation efforts. Maintaining farm communities within a region will go far in helping individual farms in Sharon.



Ice storm on Bog Meadow Road, December, 2002. Photo by Walter Schwarz.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

- ◆ The locations of archaeological sites should be identified on Town maps as resource areas that require archaeological surveys before development.
- ◆ Sharon's historic built environment should be acknowledged or protected when making decisions about future Town growth and development.

OPEN SPACE

- ◆ Develop an orderly approach to land protection within the Town, beginning with the creation of an open space plan that identifies key areas that should be preserved to ensure the integrity of currently protected open space, maintain the rural and scenic character of the Town, discourage the fragmentation of large blocks of open space, protect critical

habitat, and contribute to the recreational opportunities of Sharon's residents and visitors.

- ◆ The Conservation Commission will disseminate information on:
 - a. How landowners can protect their family lands through bequests, donations, easements, and so forth.
 - b. Land preservation organizations that can help landowners preserve their land.
- ◆ Develop and fund a Sharon Land Preservation Fund for the purchase of open space or easements on open space.
- ◆ Support the efforts of nonprofits (such as The Sharon Land Trust and Audubon Sharon) to preserve key open space through purchase or easements.

SCENIC VISTAS, AREAS, AND ROADS

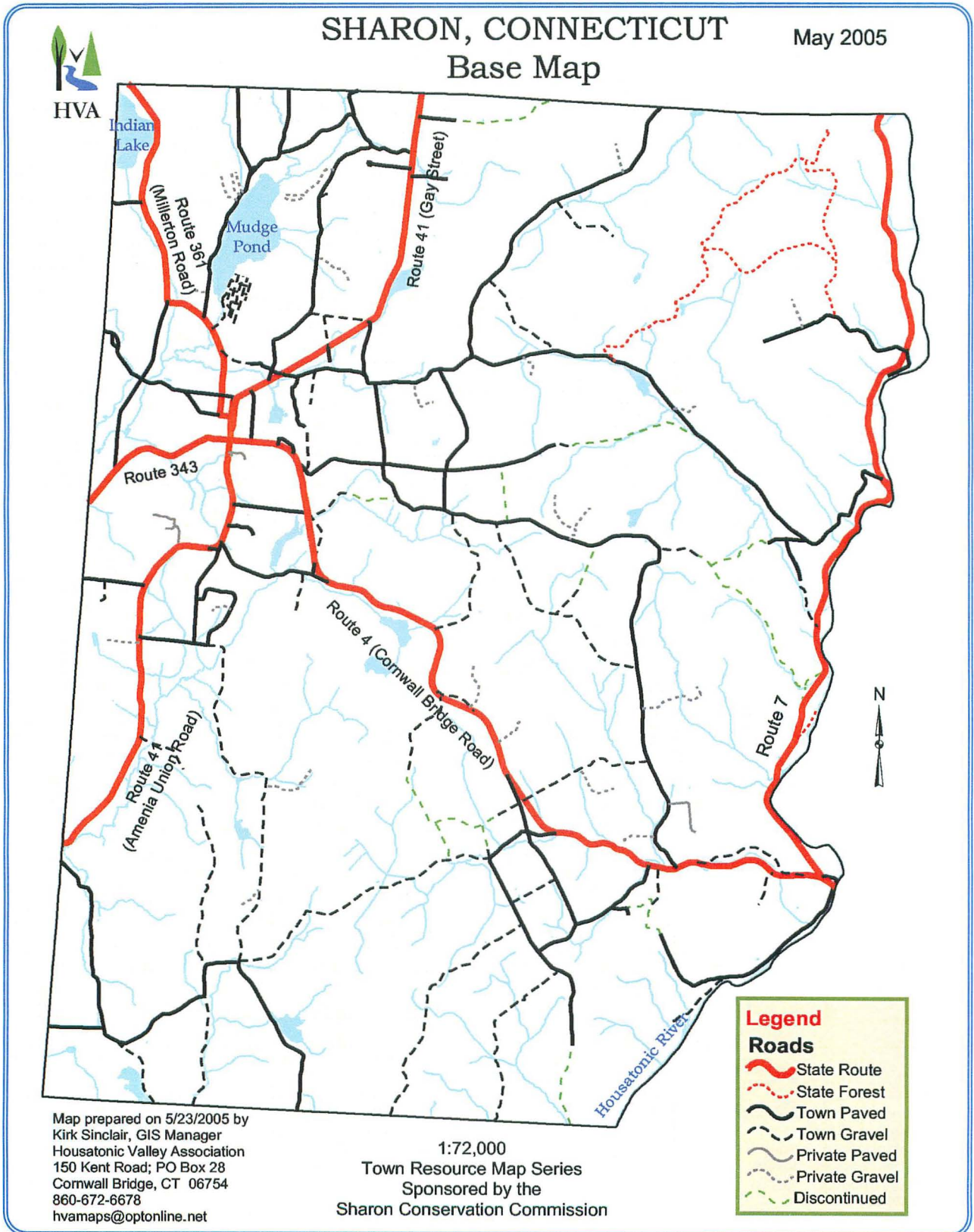
- ◆ New Planning and Zoning regulations could reduce the impact of future development on the scenic value of these roads. For instance, setback requirements could be increased on scenic roads and screenings of natural plantings could be required.
- ◆ It is important to maintain effective State-Town communication, as the DOT has taken some actions in the past without communication.

- ◆ Planning and Zoning should investigate regulations to mitigate adverse impact on Town Scenic Roads in the event of future development.

RECREATION

- ◆ Currently the property easements for recreational use are privately maintained. At some point it may be necessary for the Town or a private organization to take a more active role in maintaining these trails and roads.
- ◆ Among all the assets of the Town, the recreational easements are particularly unique to Sharon. The Town still has the ability to add to these trails and interconnect them. Investigate the possibility of connecting trails and recreational roads using protected open space.
- ◆ Investigate the creation of easements through planned subdivisions to establish greenways that serve as both wildlife corridors and recreational trails.
- ◆ It is important that property owners adjacent to recreational roads and trails are fully aware of their existence and do not do anything to obstruct them. In the future it may be necessary to have a more systematic plan to enforce the regulations pertaining to Town-owned recreational easements.

Maps

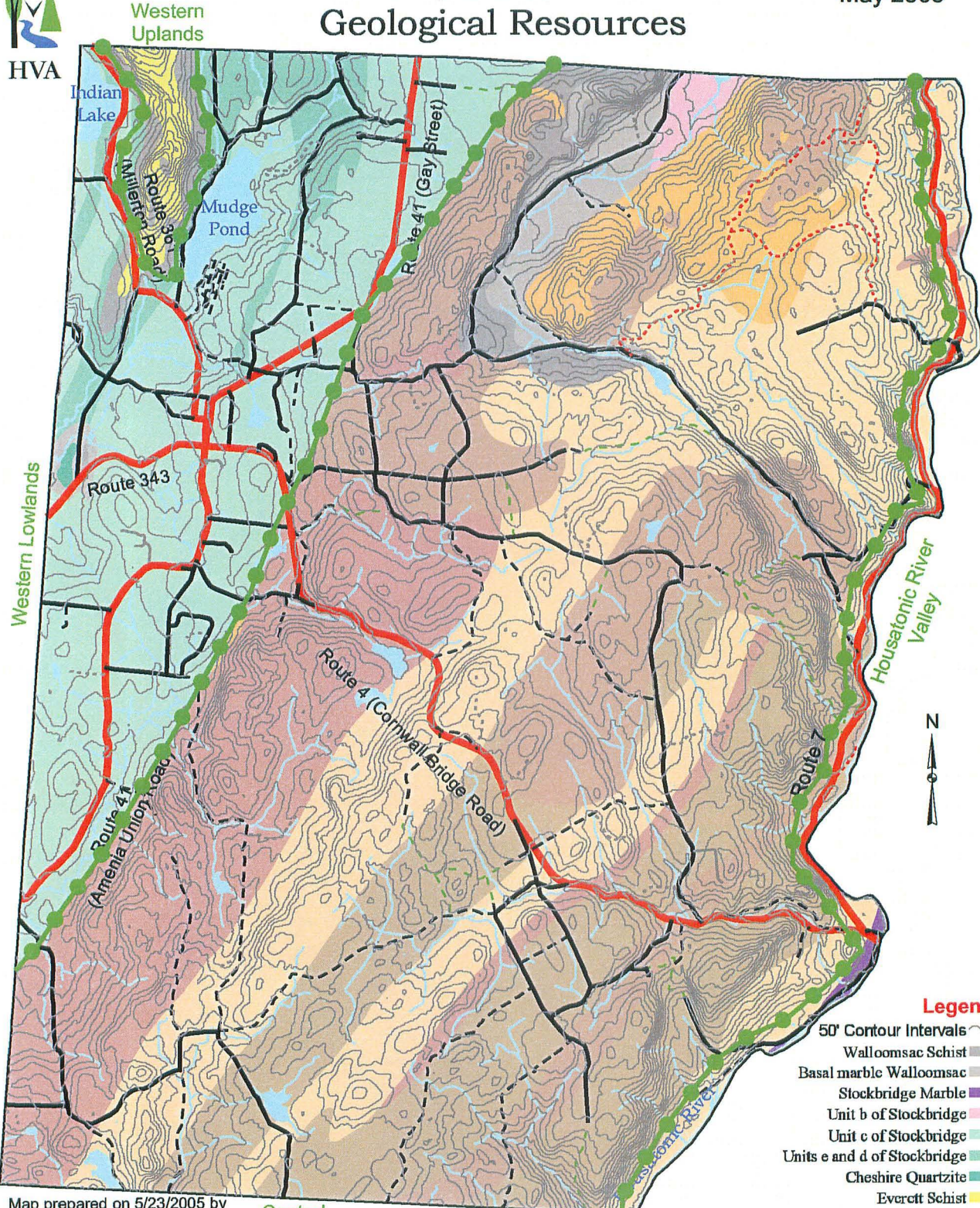


SHARON, CONNECTICUT Geological Resources

May 2005



HVA



Legend

- 50' Contour Intervals ~
- Walloomsac Schist
- Basal marble Walloomsac
- Stockbridge Marble
- Unit b of Stockbridge
- Unit c of Stockbridge
- Units e and d of Stockbridge
- Cheshire Quartzite
- Everett Schist
- Dalton Formation
- Hornblende gneiss and amphibolite
- Pink granitic gneiss
- Rusty mica schist and gneiss
- Layered gneiss

Map prepared on 5/23/2005 by
 Kirk Sinclair, GIS Manager
 Housatonic Valley Association
 150 Kent Road; PO Box 28
 Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754
 860-672-6678
 hvamaps@optonline.net

Central Uplands

1:72,000

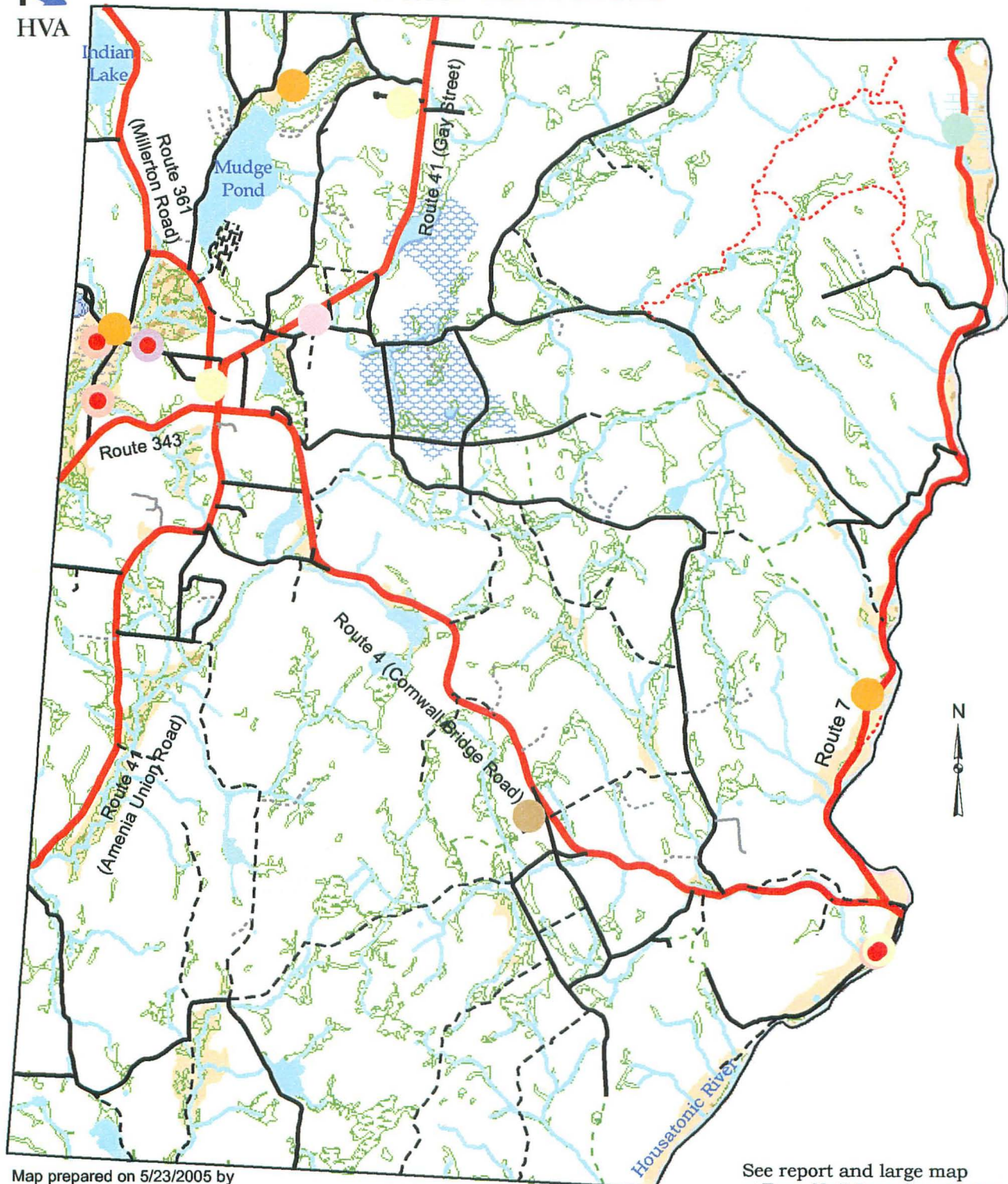
Town Resource Map Series
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 Sharon Conservation Commission



HVA

SHARON, CONNECTICUT Water Resources

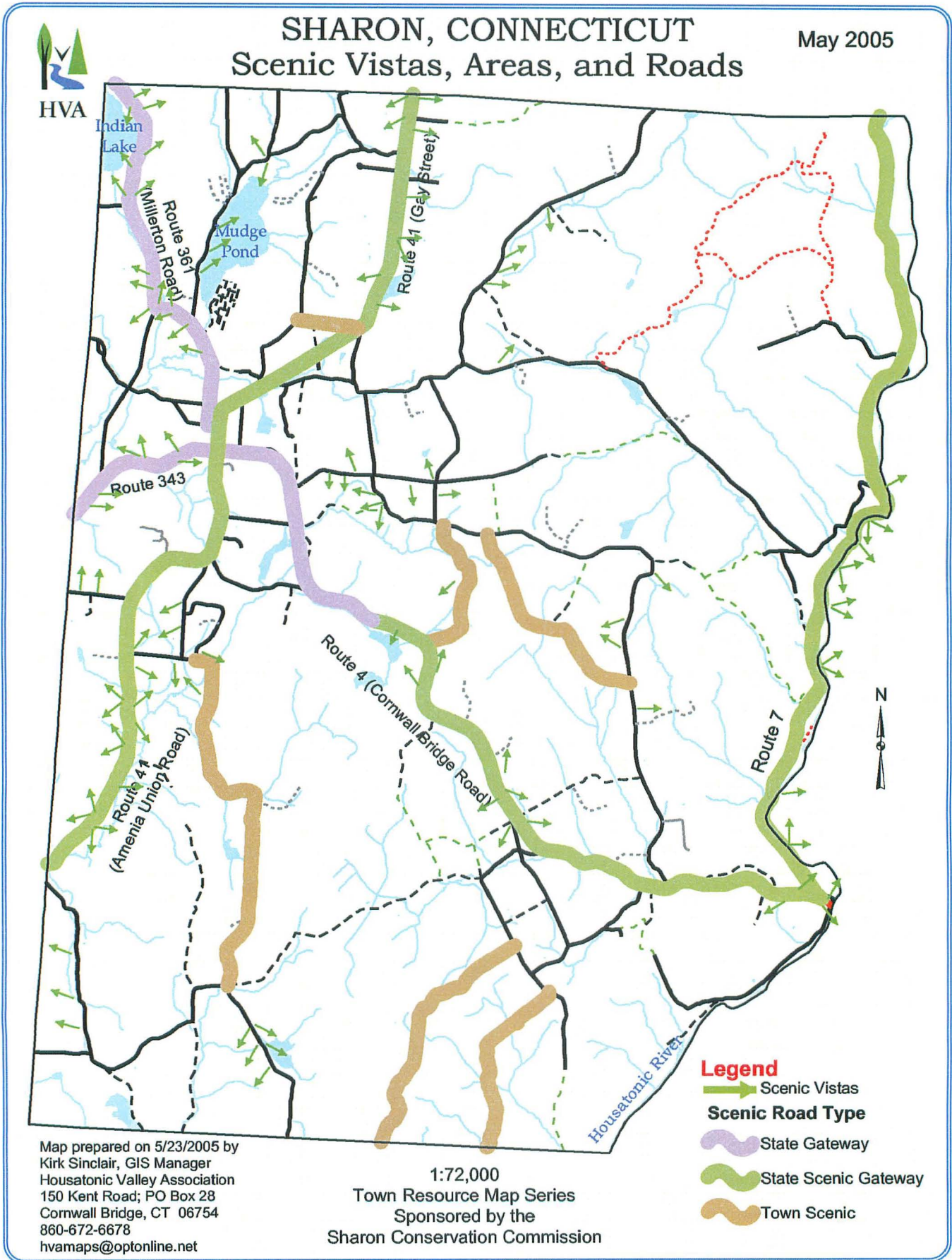
May 2005

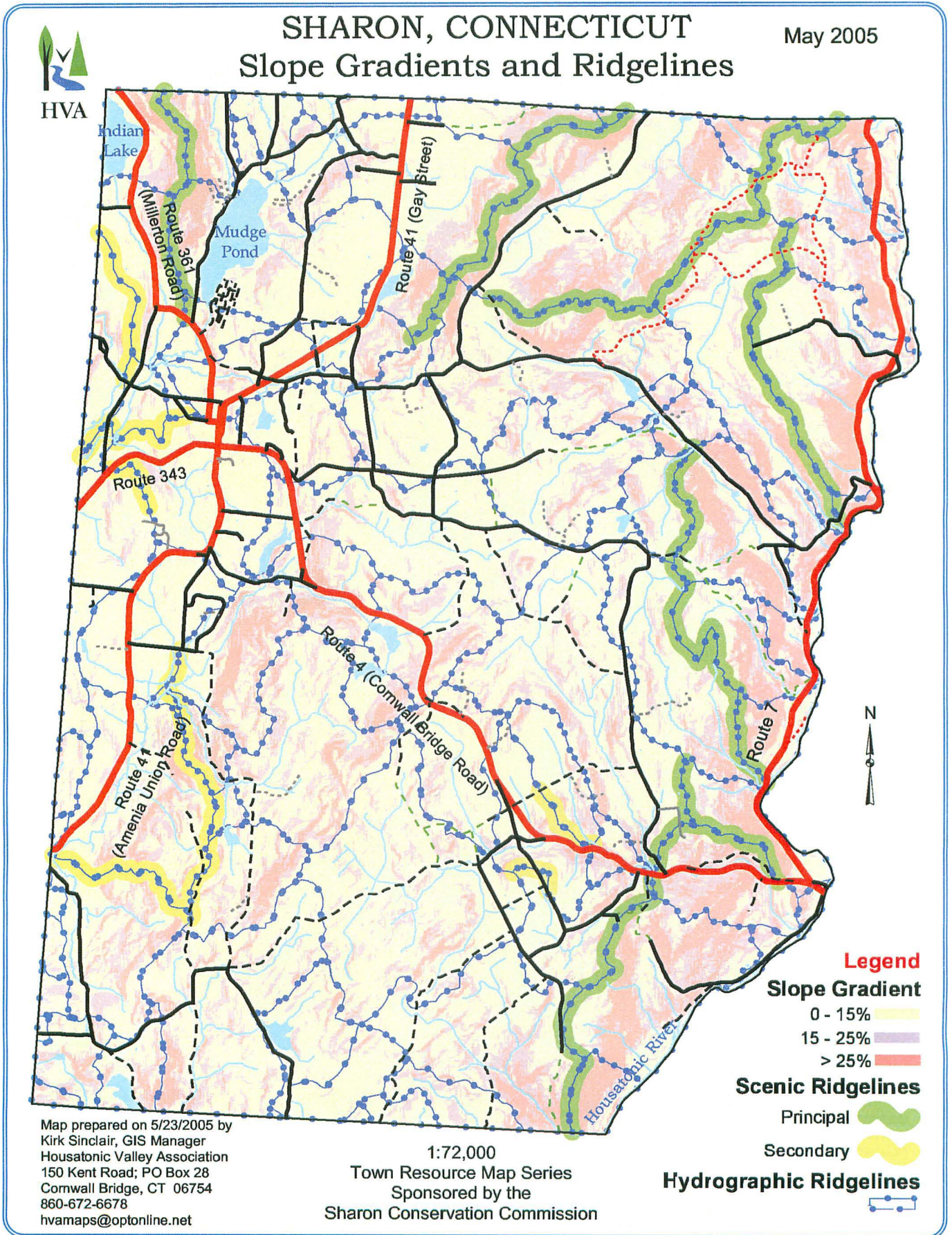


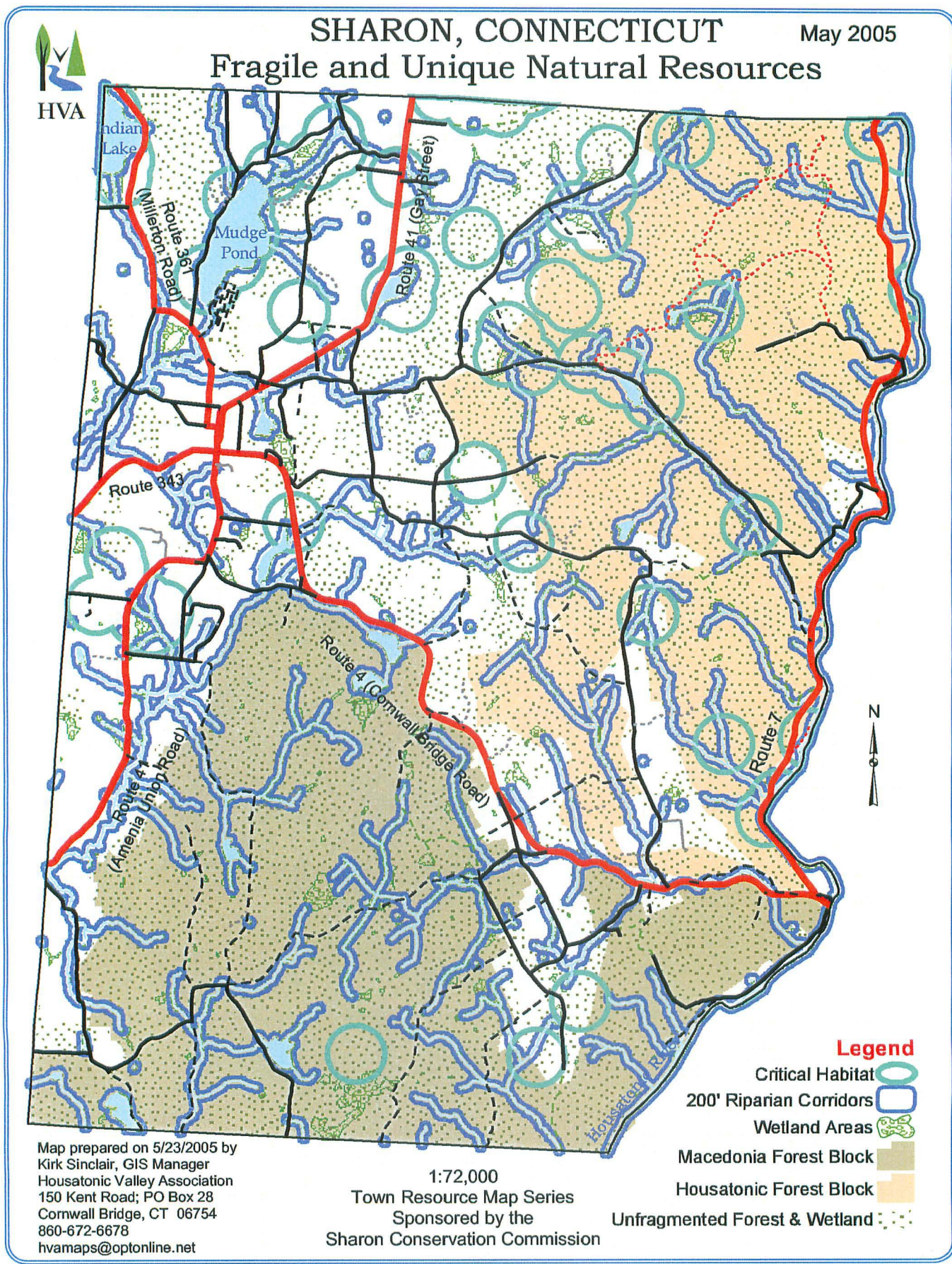
Map prepared on 5/23/2005 by
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Town Resource Map Series
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See report and large map
at Town Hall for a description
of water resource themes
and attributes.



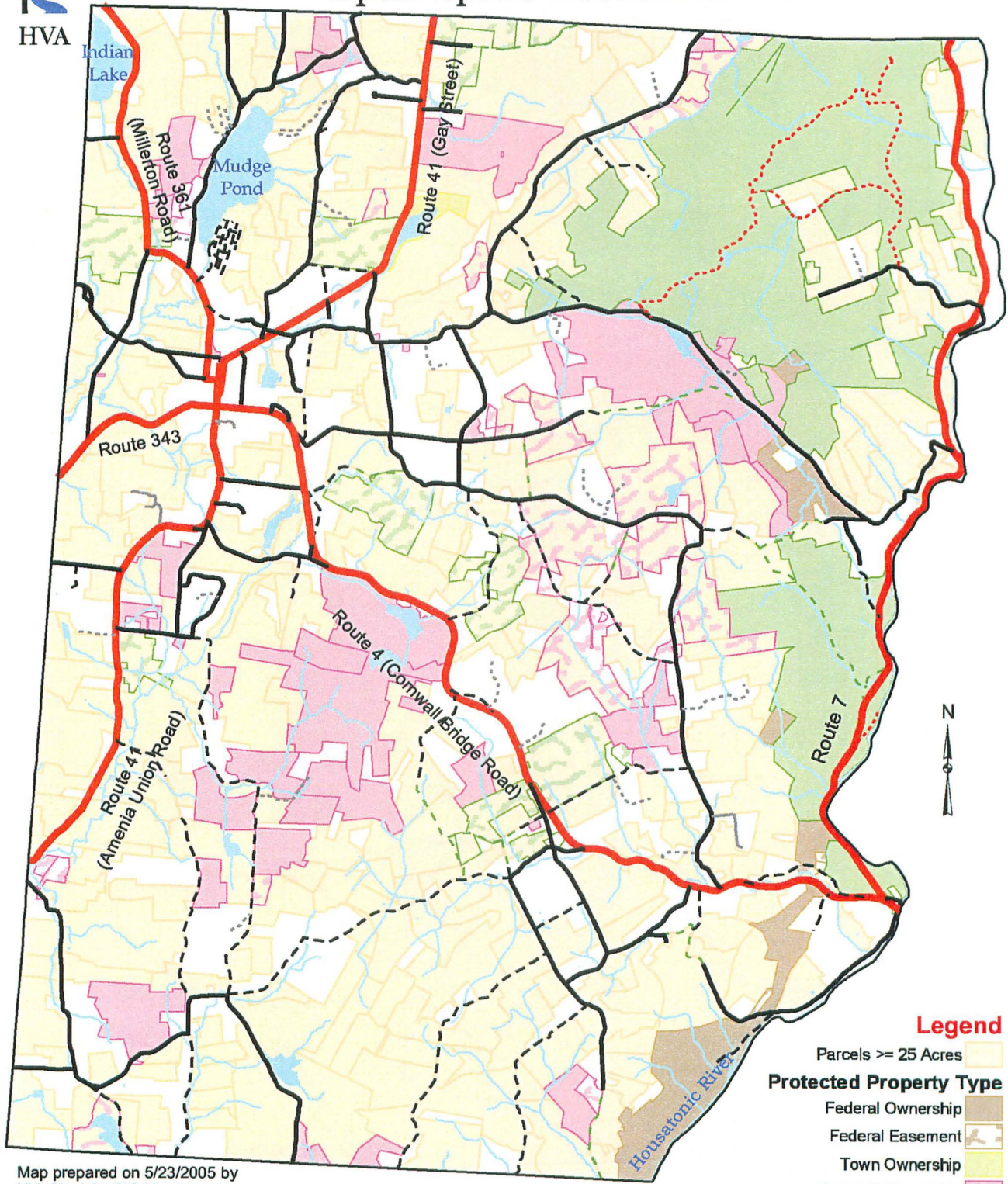






SHARON, CONNECTICUT Open Space Resources

May 2005



Map prepared on 5/23/2005 by
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Town Resource Map Series
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Sharon Conservation Commission

Legend

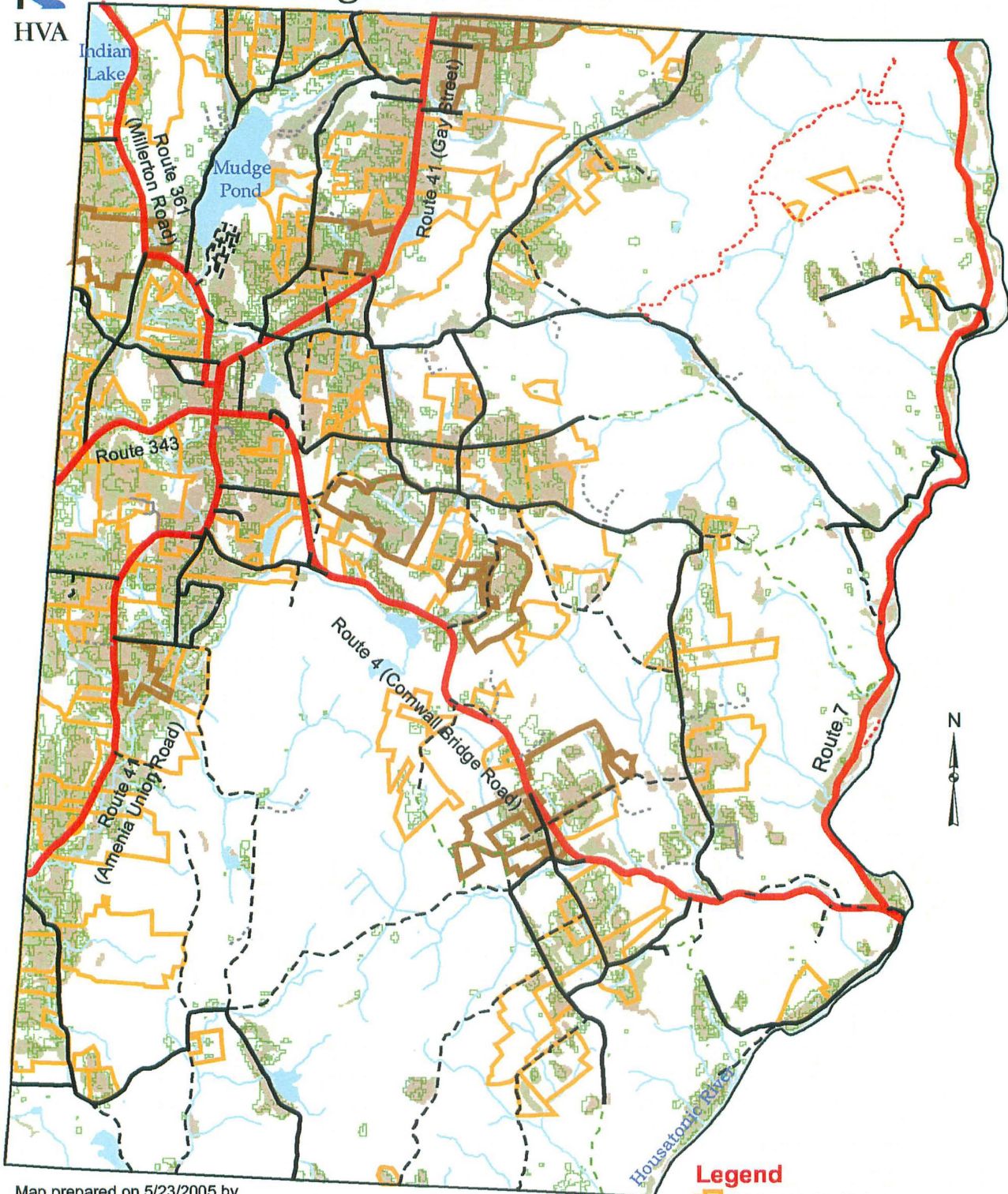
Parcels >= 25 Acres	[Yellow Box]
Protected Property Type	
Federal Ownership	[Brown Box]
Federal Easement	[Light Brown Box]
Town Ownership	[Yellow Box]
Nonprofit Ownership	[Pink Box]
Nonprofit Easement	[Light Pink Box]
State Ownership	[Green Box]
State Easement	[Light Green Box]



HVA

SHARON, CONNECTICUT Agricultural Resources

May 2005

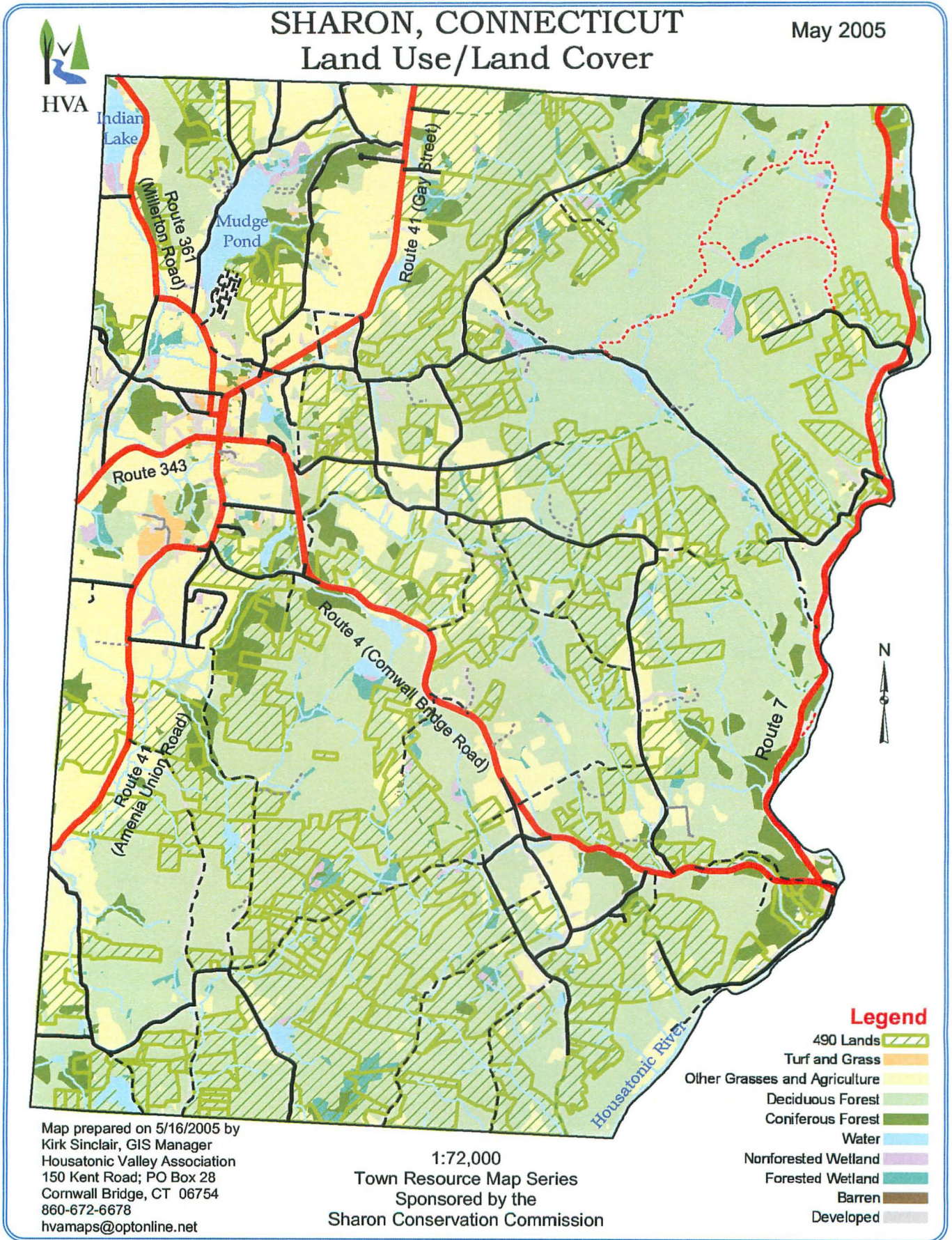


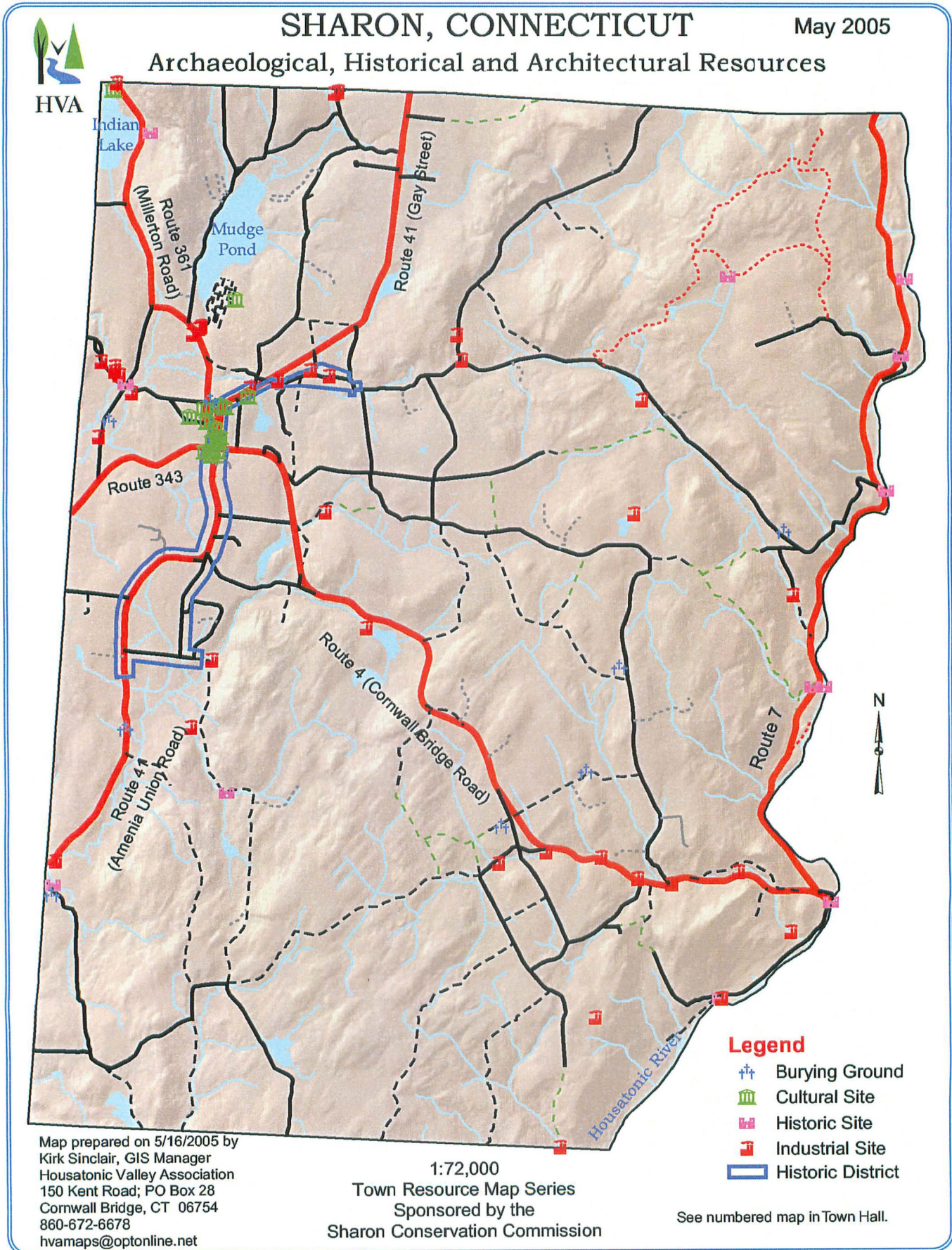
Map prepared on 5/23/2005 by
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1:72,000
Town Resource Map Series
Sponsored by the
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Legend

- 490 farmland > 10 Acres
- Farmland preservation program lands
- Farm and fields land cover
- Prime farmland soils
- Farmland soils of statewide importance

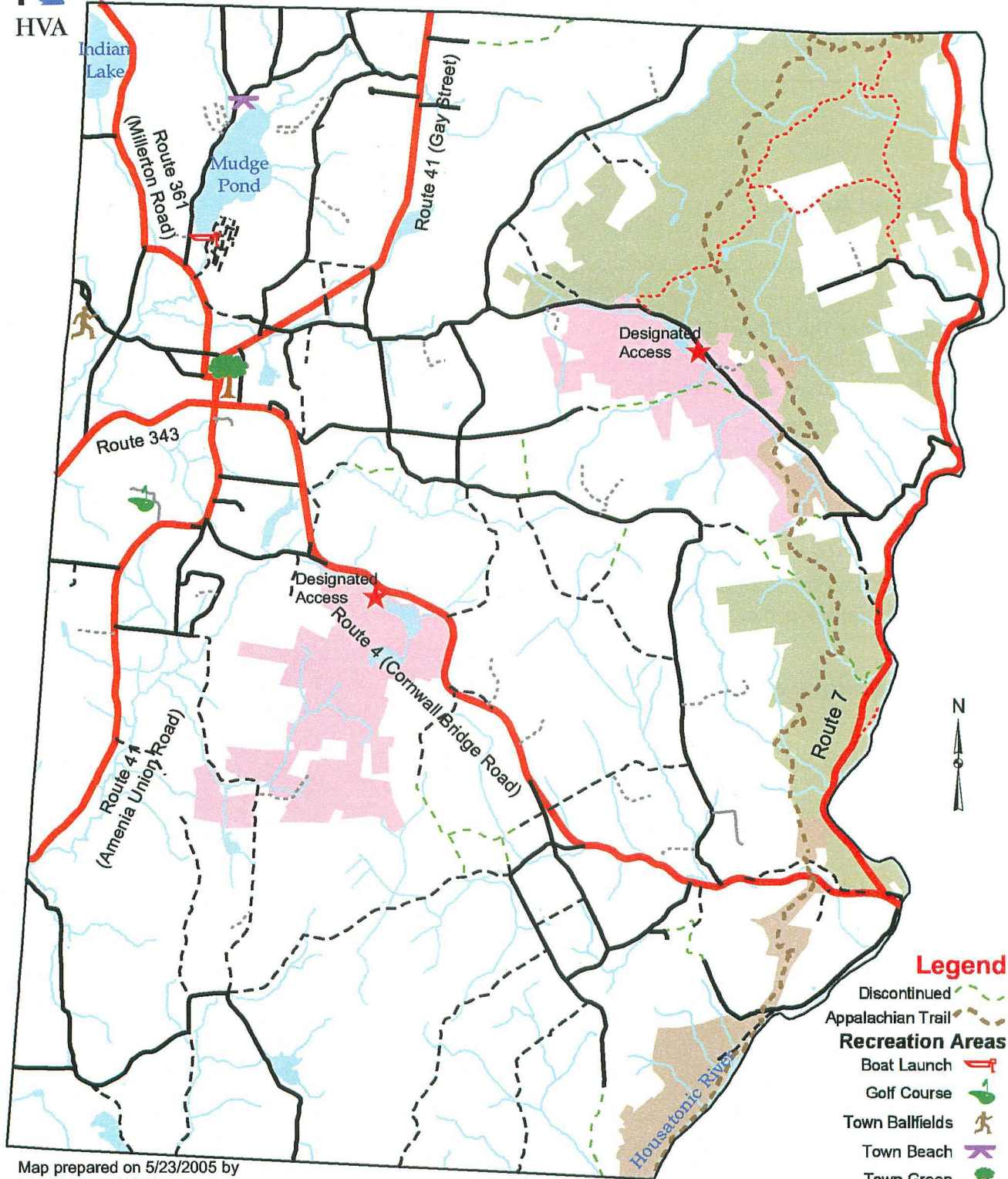






SHARON, CONNECTICUT Recreation Resources

May 2005



Map prepared on 5/23/2005 by
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1:72,000
 Town Resource Map Series
 Sponsored by the
 Sharon Conservation Commission

- Legend**
- Discontinued
 - Appalachian Trail
 - Recreation Areas**
 - Boat Launch
 - Golf Course
 - Town Ballfields
 - Town Beach
 - Town Green
 - Recreation Parcels**
 - National Park Service
 - State Forest or Park
 - National Audubon

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- CT Department of Agriculture
- American Farmland Trust
- USDA/NRCS
- Sharon P.A. 490 records
- Town of Windsor Natural Resource Plan
- Town of Somers Natural Resource Plan
- Town of Washington Natural Resource Plan

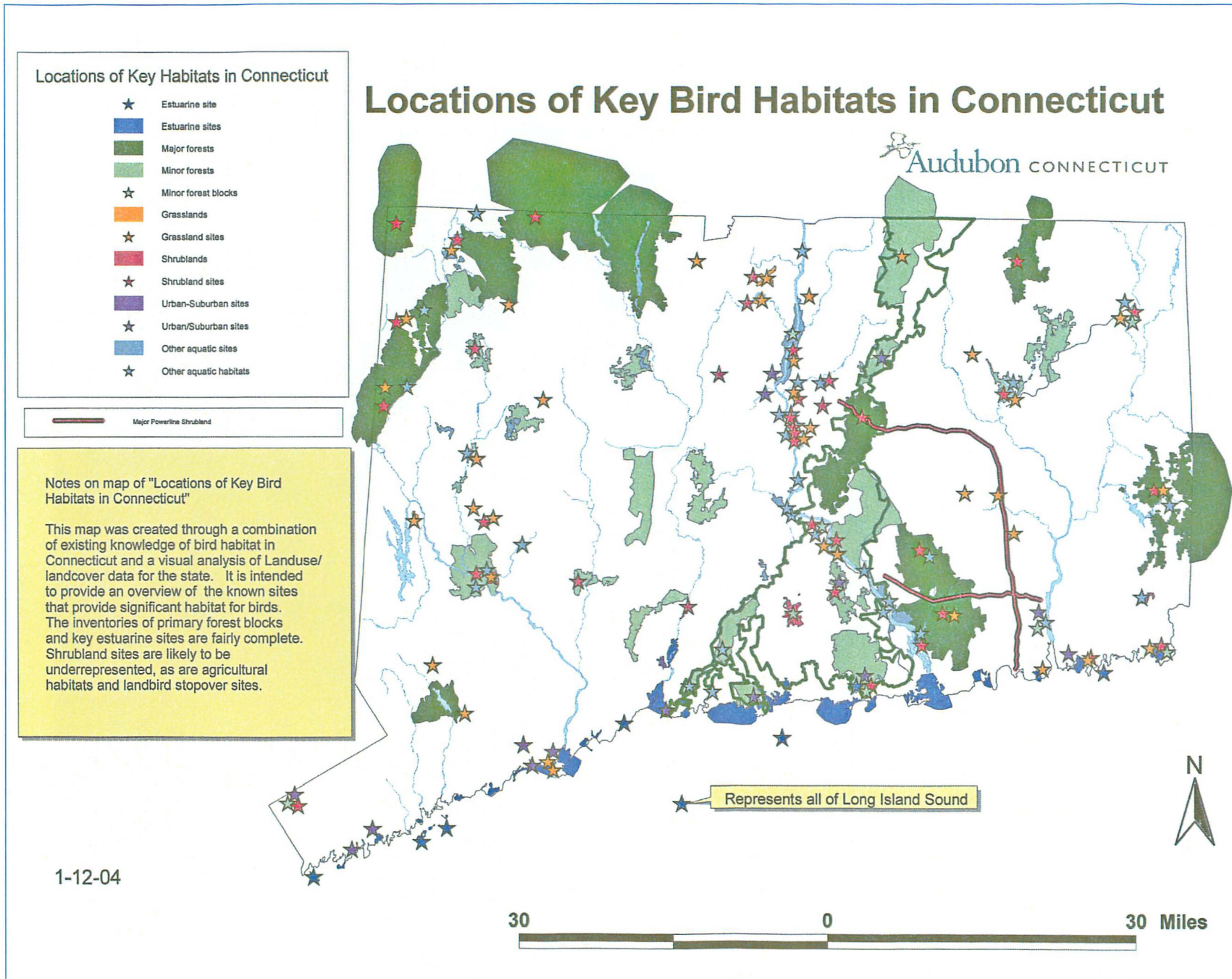
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2. *Sharon Historic District Study Committee Report*, 1975.

3. *Proposal for Sharon Historic District Extension*, 1985, Calkinstown Extension, West Main Extension, South Main Extension.
4. *Proposal for Sharon Historic Expansion*, 1992 Oblong Valley Extension.
5. *Study Group Proposal for Ellsworth Historic District*, 2004.
6. *Historic and Architectural Resource Survey of Sharon*, 2000, Geoffrey Rossano.
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8. Manufacturing in Sharon, *Lakeville Journal*, 1912, Lawrence van Alstyne.
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11. *Sharon Natural Resource Inventory*, 1982.
12. *Reports by the Institute of American Indian Studies (IAIS)*, Russell G. Handsman.
13. *Echoes of Iron in Connecticut's Northwest Corner*, Ed Kirby, Sharon Historical Society, 1999.



Miles Wildlife Sanctuary, Carse Brook. Photo by Aaron Haber.



Appendix II

DEFINITION OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, SPECIAL CONCERN, AND CRITICAL HABITAT

Connecticut's Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern

The list is broken down into taxonomic groups: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates and plants. Within these taxonomic groups the species are further categorized as being Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or Special Concern (SC). Each list is alphabetized by the species' scientific name. According to the law:

"Endangered Species" means any native species documented by biological research and inventory to be in danger of extirpation throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state and to have no more than five occurrences in the state, and any species determined to be an "endangered species" pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act.

"Threatened Species" means any native species documented by biological research and inventory to be likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state and to have no more than nine occurrences in the state, and any species determined to be a "threatened species" pursuant to the federal Endangered

Species Act, except for such species determined to be endangered by the Commissioner in accordance with Section 4 of this Act.

"Species of Special Concern" means any native plant species or any native nonharvested wildlife species documented by scientific research and inventory to have a naturally restricted range or habitat in the state, to be at a low population level, to be in such high demand by man that its unregulated taking would be detrimental to the conservation of its population, or that has been extirpated from the state.

Definition of Critical Habitat

Listed species and their habitat have been defined by the 1973 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543; Stat. 884) and its 1973 amendments (Pub. L. No. 95-632; 92 Stat. 3751), and Connecticut General Public Act 89-224, as "The Specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of its listing [and that area outside of its geographical area that are determined to be essential for the conservation of the species], on which are found those physical or

biological features [that are] essential for the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protections...."



Yellow Lady's-Slipper
(*Cypripedium parviflorum*), Sharon. A species
of special concern in
Connecticut. Photo by
Aaron Haber.

Appendix III

CONNECTICUT NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE STATE LISTED SPECIES OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY†

	Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
AMPHIBIANS	SC	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Jefferson Salamander
	T	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Blue-spotted Salamander
	T	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Northern Spring Salamander
	T	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Northern Slimy Salamander
	SC	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog
BIRDS	E	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
	SC	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Northern Saw-whet Owl
	SC*	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Henslow's Sparrow
	E	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow
	T	<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal
	E	<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl
	E	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland Sandpiper
	E	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern
	SC	<i>Caprimulgus vociferous</i>	Whip-poor-will
	E	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier
	E	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Sedge Wren
	SC	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven
	SC	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher
	E	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark
	T	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel
	E	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen
	SC	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common Loon
	E	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle
	T	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern
	E	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-headed Woodpecker
	SC	<i>Parula americana</i>	Northern Parula
	SC	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah Sparrow
	E	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe
	E	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow
	T	<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple Martin

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

* = Believed Extirpated

†State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental and Geographic Information Center, 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106.

Sharon Natural Resources Inventory 2005

	Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
BIRDS	SC	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark
	E	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl
	E	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler
FISH	SC	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	Longnose Sucker
	E	<i>Lota lota</i> Burbot	Burbot
INVERTEBRATES	SC*	<i>Acronicta albarufa</i>	Barrens Dagger Moth
	T	<i>Amblyscirtes vialis</i>	Common Roadside Skipper
	E	<i>Anarta luteola</i>	Yellow Anarta
	SC	<i>Anthopotamus verticis</i>	Walker's Tusked Sprawler
	SC	<i>Apamea burgessi</i>	A Noctuid Moth
	SC	<i>Atylotus ohioensis</i>	Tabanid Fly
	SC	<i>Bembidion quadratum</i>	A Ground Beetle
	E	<i>Calephelis borealis</i>	Northern Metalmark
	T	<i>Callophrys irus</i>	Frosted Elfin
	SC*	<i>Chaetagnela cerata</i>	A Noctuid Moth
	SC*	<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	A Tiger Beetle
	SC	<i>Cicindela tranquebarica</i>	Dark Bellied Tiger Beetle
	SC	<i>Cinygmula subaequalis</i>	A Mayfly
	SC*	<i>Citheronia regalis</i>	Regal Moth
	SC*	<i>Eacles imperialis imperialis</i>	Imperial Moth
	E	<i>Erynnis persius persius</i>	Persius Duskywing
	T	<i>Euphyes bimacula</i>	Two-spotted Skipper
	T	<i>Euphyes dion</i>	Sedge Skipper
	SC	<i>Exyra rolandiana</i>	Pitcher Plant Moth
	SC*	<i>Fossaria galbana</i>	Lymnaeid snail
	T	<i>Gomphus adelphus</i>	Mustached Clubtail
	T	<i>Gomphus descriptus</i>	Harpoon Clubtail
	E	<i>Grammia speciosa</i>	Bog Tiger Moth
	T	<i>Hemaris gracilis</i>	Slender Clearwing
	SC	<i>Hetaerina americana</i>	American Rubyspot
	T	<i>Hybomitra frosti</i>	A Horse Fly
E	<i>Hybomitra longiglossa</i>	A Horse Fly	
SC	<i>Hybomitra lurida</i>	A Horse Fly	
SC	<i>Hybomitra typhus</i>	A Horse Fly	

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

* = Believed Extirpated

Sharon Natural Resources Inventory 2005

	Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
INVERTEBRATES	SC*	<i>Hydraecia immanis</i>	Hop Vine Borer Moth
	T	<i>Leucorrhinia glacialis</i>	Crimson-ringed Whiteface
	SC	<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>	Eastern Pondmussel
	SC	<i>Lycaena epixanthe</i>	Bog Copper
	SC	<i>Lycaena hyllus</i>	Bronze Copper
	SC	<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	Eastern Pearlshell
	SC*	<i>Meropleon ambifuscum</i>	Newman's Brocade
	SC	<i>Merycomyia whitneyi</i>	Tabanid Fly
	SC*	<i>Metarranthis apiciaria</i>	Barrens Metarranthis Moth
	SC*	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	American Burying Beetle
	E	<i>Papaipema appassionata</i>	Pitcher Plant Borer Moth
	SC*	<i>Papaipema circumlucens</i>	Hops Stalk Borer Moth
	SC	<i>Papaipema leucostigma</i>	Columbine Borer
	SC*	<i>Papaipema sciata</i>	Culvers Root Borer
	E	<i>Phyllonorycter ledella</i>	Labrador Tea Tentiform Leafminer
	T	<i>Psectraglaea carnosa</i>	Pink Sallow
	SC	<i>Sargus fasciatus</i>	Soldier Fly
	SC	<i>Satyrodes eurydice</i>	Eyed Brown
	SC	<i>Somatochlora elongata</i>	Ski-tailed Emerald
	SC*	<i>Speyeria idalia</i>	Regal Fritillary
SC	<i>Tabanus fulvicallus</i>	Horse Fly	
SC	<i>Valvata tricarinata</i>	Threeridge Valvata	
MAMMALS	SC	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat
	SC*	<i>Puma concolor cougar</i>	Eastern Cougar
	SC	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	Southern Bog Lemming
PLANTS	E	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir
	SC	<i>Acalypha virginica</i>	Virginia Copperleaf
	SC	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	Black Maple
	E	<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>	Purple Giant Hyssop
	T	<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i>	Orange Foxtail
	E	<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Roundleaf Shadbush
	T	<i>Andromeda glaucophylla</i>	Bog Rosemary
	E	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada Anemone
	SC*	<i>Angelica venenosa</i>	Hairy Angelica
	SC*	<i>Antennaria neglecta var. petaloidea</i>	Field Pussytoes

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

* = Believed Extirpated

Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
SC*	<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i>	Puttyroot
E	<i>Arceuthobium pusillum</i>	Dwarf Mistletoe
SC*	<i>Arethusa bulbosa</i>	Arethusa
SC	<i>Aristida longespica</i>	Needlegrass
SC	<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	Virginia Snakeroot
E	<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>	Green Milkweed
T	<i>Asplenium montanum</i>	Mountain Spleenwort
T	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wallrue Spleenwort
SC	<i>Betula pumila</i>	Swamp Birch
SC*	<i>Blephilia ciliata</i>	Downy Woodmint
SC*	<i>Blephilia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Woodmint
E	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side-oats Grama
SC*	<i>Calystegia spithamea</i>	Low Bindweed
SC	<i>Cardamine douglassii</i>	Purple Cress
SC	<i>Carex aestivalis</i>	Summer Sedge
E	<i>Carex alata</i>	Broadwing Sedge
T	<i>Carex alopecoidea</i>	Foxtail Sedge
SC	<i>Carex aquatilis var. altior</i>	Sedge
E	<i>Carex backii</i>	Sedge
SC	<i>Carex bushii</i>	Sedge
E	<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Brown Bog Sedge
E	<i>Carex castanea</i>	Chestnut-colored Sedge
T	<i>Carex crawei</i>	Crawe's Sedge
SC*	<i>Carex crawfordii</i>	Crawford Sedge
T	<i>Carex cumulata</i>	Clustered Sedge
E	<i>Carex davisii</i>	Davis' Sedge
SC*	<i>Carex foenea</i>	Bronze Sedge
SC	<i>Carex formosa</i>	Handsome Sedge
SC	<i>Carex hitchcockiana</i>	Hitchcock's Sedge
E	<i>Carex limosa</i>	Sedge
SC	<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>	False Hop Sedge
SC	<i>Carex molesta</i>	Troublesome Sedge
SC	<i>Carex novae-angliae</i>	New England Sedge
SC	<i>Carex oligocarpa</i>	Eastern Few-fruit Sedge
SC*	<i>Carex pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered Sedge
E	<i>Carex paupercula</i>	Sedge
SC	<i>Carex prairea</i>	Prairie Sedge

PLANTS

E = Endangered T = Threatened SC = Special Concern * = Believed Extirpated

Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
E	<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>	Cyperus-like Sedge
E	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>	Schweinitz's Sedge
SC	<i>Carex squarrosa</i>	Sedge
SC	<i>Carex sterilis</i>	Dioecious Sedge
SC	<i>Carex trichocarpa</i>	Sedge
SC	<i>Carex tuckermanii</i>	Tuckerman Sedge
E	<i>Carex viridula</i>	Little Green Sedge
SC	<i>Carex woodii</i>	Pretty Sedge
E	<i>Castilleja coccinea</i>	Indian Paintbrush
E	<i>Chamaelirium luteum</i>	Devil's-bit
SC	<i>Coeloglossum viride var. virescens</i>	Long-bracted Green Orchid
SC	<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Early Coralroot
E	<i>Cryptogramma steller</i>	Slender Cliff-brake
SC*	<i>Cuphea viscosissima</i>	Blue Waxweed
SC	<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i>	Yellow Lady's-slipper
E	<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>	Showy Lady's-slipper
E	<i>Dalibarda repens</i>	Dew-drop
SC	<i>Desmodium glabellum</i>	Dillen Tick-trefoil
SC	<i>Desmodium humifusum</i>	Trailing Tick-trefoil
T	<i>Dicentra canadensis</i>	Squirrel-corn
E	<i>Diplazium pycnocarpon</i>	Narrow-leaved Glade Fern
SC	<i>Draba reptans</i>	Whitlow-grass
E	<i>Dryopteris campyloptera</i>	Mountain Wood-fern
SC	<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	Goldie's Fern
E	<i>Eleocharis equisetoides</i>	Horse-tail Spikerush
SC	<i>Elymus trachycaulus ssp. subsecundus</i>	Slender Wheatgrass
SC	<i>Elymus wiegandii</i>	Wiegand's Wild Rice
E	<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	Meadow Horsetail
E	<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Dwarf Scouring Rush
T	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum var. spissum</i>	Hare's Tail
E	<i>Galium labradoricum</i>	Bog Bedstraw
T	<i>Gaultheria hispidula</i>	Creeping Snowberry
T	<i>Gaylussacia dumosa var. bigeloviana</i>	Dwarf Huckleberry
E	<i>Gentiana quinquefolia</i>	Stiff Gentian
SC*	<i>Geranium bicknellii</i>	Bicknell Northern Crane's-bill
T	<i>Helianthemum propinquum</i>	Low Frostweed
E	<i>Hemicarpha micrantha</i>	Dwarf Bulrush

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

* = Believed Extirpated

	Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
PLANTS	SC	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	Sharp-lobed Hepatica
	E	<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>	Longleaf Bluet
	E	<i>Hydrocotyle umbellata</i>	Water Pennywort
	SC	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	Virginia Waterleaf
	SC	<i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i>	Great St. John's-wort
	E	<i>Isanthus brachiatus</i>	False Pennyroyal
	E	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Small Whorled Pogonia
	SC	<i>Krigia biflora</i>	Two-flowered Cynthia
	T	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	Labrador Tea
	SC	<i>Liatriis scariosa var. novae-angliae</i>	Blazing-star
	E	<i>Linnaea borealis var. americana</i>	Twinflower
	SC	<i>Linum sulcatum</i>	Yellow Flax
	SC	<i>Lygodium palmatum</i>	Climbing Fern
	E	<i>Lythrum alatum</i>	Winged-loosestrife
	E	<i>Malaxis monophyllos</i>	White Adder's-mouth
	E	<i>Malaxis unifolia</i>	Green Adder's-mouth
	T	<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>	Water-marigold
	SC*	<i>Milium effusum</i>	Tall Millet-grass
	SC	<i>Mimulus alatus</i>	Winged Monkey-flower
	SC	<i>Mitella nuda</i>	Naked Miterwort
	E	<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	One-flower Wintergreen
	E	<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>	Slender Water-milfoil
	T	<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	Northern Water-milfoil
	SC	<i>Nuphar microphylla</i>	Small Yellow Pond Lily
	SC*	<i>Nymphaea odorata var. tuberosa</i>	Water Lily
	E	<i>Onosmodium virginianum</i>	Gravel-weed
	T	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	Adder's Tongue
	SC	<i>Oryzopsis pungens</i>	Slender Mountain-ricegrass
	SC	<i>Oxalis violacea</i>	Violet Wood-sorrel
	SC	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	American Ginseng
	SC*	<i>Panicum xanthophysum</i>	Panic Grass
	E	<i>Pellaea glabella</i>	Smooth Cliff-brake
	T	<i>Petasites frigidus var. palmatus</i>	Sweet Coltsfoot
	E	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red Pine
	SC	<i>Plantago virginica</i>	Hoary Plantain
E	<i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i>	White-fringe Orchid	
SC*	<i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	Tall White Bog Orchid	

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SC = Special Concern

* = Believed Extirpated

Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
SC	<i>Platanthera flava</i>	Pale Green Orchid
SC*	<i>Platanthera hookeri</i>	Hooker Orchid
SC*	<i>Platanthera orbiculata</i>	Large Roundleaf Orchid
SC	<i>Podostemum ceratophyllum</i>	Threadfoot
SC*	<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i>	Clammy-weed
E	<i>Polygala senega</i>	Seneca Snakeroot
E	<i>Populus heterophylla</i>	Swamp Cottonwood
E	<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	Fries' Pondweed
E	<i>Potamogeton hillii</i>	Hill's Pondweed
E	<i>Potamogeton ogdenii</i>	Ogden's Pondweed
E	<i>Potamogeton strictifolius</i>	Straight-leaf Pondweed
E	<i>Potamogeton vaseyi</i>	Vasey's Pondweed
SC	<i>Potentilla arguta</i>	Tall Cinquefoil
E	<i>Potentilla tridentata</i>	Three-toothed Cinquefoil
E	<i>Pycnanthemum clinopodioides</i>	Basil Mountain-mint
SC*	<i>Pyrola secunda</i>	One-sided Pyrola
SC	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak
E	<i>Ranunculus ambigens</i>	Water-plantain Spearwort
SC*	<i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i>	Bristly Buttercup
SC	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Cursed Crowfoot
SC	<i>Ranunculus subrigidus</i>	White Water-crowfoot
E	<i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i>	Capillary Beakrush
T	<i>Rhynchospora macrostachya</i>	Beaked Rush
T	<i>Ribes glandulosum</i>	Skunk Currant
SC*	<i>Ribes rotundifolium</i>	Wild Currant
E	<i>Ribes triste</i>	Swamp Red Currant
T	<i>Rotala ramosior</i>	Toothcup
SC	<i>Rubus cuneifolius</i>	Sand Bramble
E	<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Bog Willow
SC	<i>Salix serissima</i>	Autumn Willow
E	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	Pod Grass
SC	<i>Schizachne purpurascens</i>	Purple Oat
T	<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	Hard-stemmed Bulrush
SC*	<i>Scirpus hudsonianus</i>	Cotton Bulrush
T	<i>Scirpus torreyi</i>	Torrey's Bulrush
SC*	<i>Scleria verticillata</i>	Low Nutrush
E	<i>Scutellaria leonardii</i>	Small Skullcap

PLANTS

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

* = Believed Extirpated

	Protection Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
PLANTS	E	<i>Senecio pauperculus</i>	Ragwort
	SC	<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Wild Senna
	SC	<i>Silene stellata</i>	Starry Champion
	T	<i>Smilacina trifolia</i>	Three-leaved False Solomon's-seal
	E	<i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i>	Prairie Goldenrod
	E	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Stiff Goldenrod
	SC*	<i>Solidago rugosa var. sphagnophila</i>	Early Wrinkle-leaved Goldenrod
	E	<i>Sparganium fluctuans</i>	Floating Bur-reed
	SC*	<i>Sparganium minimum</i>	Small Bur-reed
	T	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Sand Dropseed
	E	<i>Sporobolus neglectus</i>	Small Dropseed
	SC	<i>Stellaria borealis</i>	Northern Stitchwort
	T	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius var. americanus</i>	White Mandarin
	E	<i>Taenidia integerrima</i>	Yellow Pimpernel
	T	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern White Cedar
	SC	<i>Trichomanes intricatum</i>	Appalachian Gametophyte
	SC*	<i>Triphora trianthophora</i>	Nodding Pogonia
	SC*	<i>Trisetum spicatum var. molle</i>	Spiked False Oats
	T	<i>Trollius laxus</i>	Spreading Globeflower
	E	<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	Bladderwort
	E	<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Bellwort
	SC*	<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i>	Velvetleaf Blueberry
	SC	<i>Viola canadensis</i>	Canada Violet
	SC	<i>Viola nephrophylla</i>	Northern Bog Violet
	SC	<i>Viola renifolia var. brainerdii</i>	Kidney-leaf White Violet
	SC	<i>Viola selkirkii</i>	Great-spurred Violet
SC	<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i>	Barren Strawberry	
T	<i>Xyris montana</i>	Northern Yellow-eyed grass	
REPTILES	SC	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle
	E	<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle
	E	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake
	T	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>	Five-lined Skink
	SC	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Eastern Hognose Snake
	SC	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle
	SC	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Eastern Ribbon Snake

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

SC = Special Concern

* = Believed Extirpated

Appendix IV

BREEDING BIRDS OF SHARON

The following is a list of the Breeding Birds of Sharon, CT. The list was compiled utilizing a report of The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC) (8 September 2002), *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Connecticut* (1994), and observations of Bob Moeller from spring 1972 to the present.

(B) = regular breeder
(rB) = rare, local, irregular or very recent breeder
(I) = introduced breeder



American Kestrel.

Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe (rB)

Bitterns and Herons

American Bittern (rB)
Least Bittern (rB)
Great Blue Heron (B)
Green Heron (B)

Swans, Geese, and Ducks

Mute Swan (I)
Canada Goose (B)
Wood Duck (B)
American Black Duck (B)
Mallard (B)
Hooded Merganser (B)
Common Merganser (B)

American Vultures

Black Vulture (rB)
Turkey Vulture (B)

Kites, Eagles, and Hawks

Cooper's Hawk (B)
Northern Goshawk (B)
Red-shouldered Hawk (B)

Broad-winged Hawk (B)
Red-tailed Hawk (B)

Falcons

American Kestrel (B)

Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail

Ring-necked Pheasant (I)
Ruffed Grouse (B)
Wild Turkey (B)
Northern Bobwhite (I)

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

Virginia Rail (B)
Sora (B)
Common Moorhen (rB)

Plovers / Sandpipers

Killdeer (B)
Spotted Sandpiper (rB)
American Woodcock (B)

Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove (I)
Mourning Dove (B)

Cuckoos

Black-billed Cuckoo (B)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (B)

Barn Owls

Barn Owl (rB)

Typical Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl (B)
Great Horned Owl (B)
Barred Owl (B)
Northern Saw-whet Owl (rB)

Goatsuckers

Whip-poor-will (B)

Swifts

Chimney Swift (B)

Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (B)

Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher (B)

Woodpeckers

Red-bellied Woodpecker (B)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (B)
Downy Woodpecker (B)
Hairy Woodpecker (B)
Northern Flicker (B)
Pileated Woodpecker (B)

Tyrant Flycatchers

Eastern Wood-Pewee (B)
Acadian Flycatcher (rB)
Alder Flycatcher (rB)
Willow Flycatcher (rB)
Least Flycatcher (B)
Eastern Phoebe (B)
Great Crested Flycatcher (B)
Eastern Kingbird (B)

Swallows

Purple Martin (rB)
Tree Swallow (B)
N. Rough-winged Swallow (B)
Bank Swallow (B)
Cliff Swallow (B)
Barn Swallow (B)

Jays and Crows

Blue Jay (B)
American Crow (B)
Common Raven (B)

Chickadees and Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee (B)
Tufted Titmouse (B)

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch (rB)
White-breasted Nuthatch (B)

Creepers

Brown Creeper (B)

Wrens

Carolina Wren (rB)
House Wren (B)
Winter Wren (B)

Kinglets and Thrushes

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (B)
Eastern Bluebird (B)
Veery (B)
Hermit Thrush (B)
Wood Thrush (B)
American Robin (B)

Thrashers

Gray Catbird (B)
Northern Mockingbird (B)
Brown Thrasher (B)

Waxwings

Cedar Waxwing (B)

Starlings

European Starling (I)

Vireos

White-eyed Vireo (rB)

Blue-headed Vireo (B)
Yellow-throated Vireo (B)
Warbling Vireo (B)
Red-eyed Vireo (B)

Wood-Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler (B)
Golden-winged Warbler (rB)
Nashville Warbler (rB)
Northern Parula (rB)
Yellow Warbler (B)
Chestnut-sided Warbler (B)
Magnolia Warbler (rB)
Black-throated Blue Warbler (B)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (B)
Black-throated Green Warbler (B)
Blackburnian Warbler (B)
Pine Warbler (B)
Prairie Warbler (B)
Cerulean Warbler (B)
Black-and-white Warbler (B)
American Redstart (B)
Worm-eating Warbler (B)
Ovenbird (B)
Northern Waterthrush (B)
Louisiana Waterthrush (B)
Hooded Warbler (B)
Canada Warbler (B)

Tanagers

Scarlet Tanager (B)

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings

Northern Cardinal (B)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (B)
Indigo Bunting (B)

Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos, and Longspurs

Eastern Towhee (B)
Chipping Sparrow (B)
Field Sparrow (B)
Savannah Sparrow (B)
Song Sparrow (B)
Swamp Sparrow (B)
Dark-eyed Junco (B)

Blackbirds

Bobolink (B)
Red-winged Blackbird (B)
Eastern Meadowlark (B)
Common Grackle (B)
Brown-headed Cowbird (B)
Orchard Oriole (rB)
Baltimore Oriole (B)

Finches

Purple Finch (B)
House Finch (B)
Pine Siskin (rB)
American Goldfinch (B)

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow (I)



Cerulean Warbler. Photo by Bill Dyer. Courtesy of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Appendix V

WILDLIFE CHECKLIST OF SHARON MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS, AND REPTILES

Mammals*

- ✓ Known to be found in Sharon
- ★ Rarely found in Sharon/possibly in decline

✓ Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
✓ Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
✓ Bobcat	<i>Felis rufus</i>
✓ Boreal Red-backed Vole	<i>Celthriomys gapperi</i>
✓ Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
★ Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
✓ Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
✓ Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
✓ Eastern Mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
★ Eastern Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>
★ European Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
✓ Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>
✓ Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
✓ Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
✓ Hairy-tailed Mole	<i>Parascalops breweri</i>



Black Bear. Bog Meadow Road, Sharon. Photo by Walter Schwarz.

✓ House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
✓ Keen's Myotis	<i>Myotis keenii</i>
✓ Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>
✓ Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
✓ Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
✓ Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonicus</i>
✓ Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
✓ Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
✓ Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>
✓ New England Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>
✓ Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
✓ Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
✓ Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
✓ Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
★ Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>
✓ Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
✓ Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
✓ River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>
✓ Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
✓ Short-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
★ Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>
✓ Smoky Shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>
★ Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>
✓ Southern Flying Squirrel	<i>Galucmys volans</i>
✓ Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>
✓ Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
✓ Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>



White-Tailed Deer.

*List of mammals courtesy of Robert Moeller.

- ✓ White-footed Mouse *Peromyscus leucopus*
- ✓ White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*
- ✓ Woodchuck *Marmota monax*
- ✓ Woodland Jumping Mouse *Napaeozapus insignis*
- ✓ Woodland Vole *Microtus pinetorum*

Amphibians*

- American Toad *Bufo a. americanus*
- Blue-spotted Salamander *Ambystoma laterale*
- Bull Frog *Rana catesbeiana*
- Dusky Salamander *Desmognathus f. fuscus*
- Four-toed Salamander *Hemidactylum scutatum*
- Gray Tree Frog *Hyla versicolor*
- Green Frog *Rana clamitans melanota*
- Jefferson Salamander *Ambystoma jeffersonianum*
- “Complex”
- Marbled Salamander *Ambystoma opacum*
- Mudpuppy *Necturus m. maculosus*
- Northern Leopard Frog *Rana pipiens*
- Northern Spring Salamander *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*
- Northern Two-lined Salamander *Eurycea bislineata*
- Pickeral Frog *Rana palustris*
- Red-backed Salamander *Plethodon cinereus*
- Red-spotted Newt *Notophthalmus v. viridescens*
- Spotted Salamander *Ambystoma maculatum*
- Spring Peeper *Rana pipiens*
- Wood Frog *Rana sylvatica*



Red-Spotted Newt.

Reptiles*

- Black Rat Snake *Elaphe o. obsoleta*
- Bog Turtle *Clemmys muhlenbergii*
- Common Musk Turtle *Sternotherus odoratus*
- Common Snapping Turtle *Chelydra s. serpentina*
- Eastern Garter Snake *Thamnophis s. sirtalis*



Wood Turtle.



Green Frog.

- Eastern Hognose Snake *Heterodon platirhinos*
- Eastern Ribbon Snake *Thamnophis s. sauritus*
- Northern Black Racer *Coluber c. constrictor*
- Northern Copperhead *Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*
- Northern Redbelly Snake *Storeria o. occipitamaculata*
- Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta*
- Spotted Turtle *Clemmys guttata*
- Timber Rattlesnake *Crotalus horridus*
- Wood Turtle *Clemmys insculpta*

*Amphibian and reptile lists courtesy of Laurie Doss of The Marvelwood School.

Appendix VI

LIST OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN CONNECTICUT¹

The Connecticut Invasive Plants Council encourages the use of non-invasive alternatives, particularly when planting near parks, natural areas, or other minimally managed habitats.

Aquatic and Wetland Plants

Butomus umbellatus L. (Flowering rush; Potentially Invasive)
Cabomba caroliniana A. (Gray fanwort; Invasive)
Callitriche stagnalis Scop. (Pond water-starwort; Potentially Invasive)
Egeria densa (Planchon Brazilian water-weed; Potentially Invasive)
†*Eichhornia crassipes* (Mart.) Solms (Common water-hyacinth; Potentially Invasive)
Hydrilla verticillata (L.f.) Royle (Hydrilla; Invasive)
Iris pseudacorus L. (Yellow iris; Invasive)
Lythrum salicaria L. (Purple loosestrife; Invasive)
Marsilea quadrifolia L. (European watercress; Potentially Invasive)
Myosotis scorpioides L. (Forget-me-not; Invasive)
Myriophyllum aquaticum (Vell.) Verdc. (Parrotfeather; Potentially Invasive)
Myriophyllum heterophyllum Michx. (Variable-leaf watermilfoil; Invasive)
Myriophyllum spicatum L. (Eurasian water milfoil; Invasive)
Najas minor All. (Brittle water-nymph; Potentially Invasive)
Nelumbo lutea (Willd.) Pers. (American water lotus; Potentially Invasive)
†*Nymphoides peltata* (Gmel.) Kuntze (Yellow floating heart; Potentially Invasive)
†*Pistia stratiotes* L. (Water lettuce; Potentially Invasive)
Potamogeton crispus L. (Crispy-leaved pondweed; Invasive)

Rorippa microphylla (Boenn. ex Reichenb.) Hyl. ex A. & D. Löve (Onerow yellowcress; Potentially Invasive)
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum (L.) Hayek (Watercress; Potentially Invasive)
†*Salvinia molesta* Mitchell complex (Giant salvinia; Potentially Invasive)
Trapa natans L. (Water chestnut; Invasive)

Trees

Acer ginnala L. (Amur maple; Potentially Invasive)
**Acer platanoides* L. (Norway maple; Invasive)
Acer pseudoplatanus L. (Sycamore maple; Potentially Invasive)
Ailanthus altissima (Mill.) Swingle (Tree of heaven; Invasive)
Paulownia tomentosa (Thunb.) Steudel (Princess tree; Potentially Invasive)
Populus alba L. (White poplar; Potentially Invasive)
**Robinia pseudo-acacia* L. (Black locust; Invasive)

Shrubs

Amorpha fruticosa L. (False indigo; Potentially Invasive)
**Berberis thunbergii* DC. (Japanese barberry; Invasive)
Berberis vulgaris L. (Common barberry; Invasive)
Elaeagnus angustifolia L. (Russian olive; Potentially Invasive)
Elaeagnus umbellata Thunb. (Autumn olive; Invasive)

¹Produced by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council, Connecticut Public Act No.03-136, January 2004.

An asterisk () denotes that the species, although shown by scientific evaluation to be invasive, has cultivars that have not been evaluated for invasive characteristics. Further research may determine whether or not individual cultivars are potentially invasive. Cultivars are commercially available selections of a plant species that have been bred or selected for predictable, desirable attributes of horticultural value such as form (dwarf or weeping forms), foliage (variegated or colorful leaves), or flowering attributes (enhanced flower color or size).

†A dagger (†) indicates species that are not currently known to be naturalized in Connecticut but would likely become invasive here if they are found to persist in the state without cultivation.

**Euonymus alatus* (Thunb.) Sieb. (Winged euonymus; Invasive)
Frangula alnus Mill. (Glossy buckthorn; Invasive)
Ligustrum obtusifolium Sieb. & Zucc. (Border privet; Potentially Invasive)
Ligustrum ovalifolium Hassk. (California privet; Potentially Invasive)
Ligustrum vulgare L. (European privet; Potentially Invasive)
Lonicera bella Zabel (Bell's honeysuckle; Invasive)
Lonicera maackii (Rupr.) Maxim. (Amur honeysuckle; Invasive)
Lonicera morrowii A. Gray (Morrow's honeysuckle; Invasive)
Lonicera tatarica L. (Tatarian honeysuckle; Potentially Invasive)
†*Lonicera xylosteum* L. (Dwarf honeysuckle; Potentially Invasive)
Rhamnus cathartica L. (Common buckthorn; Invasive)
Rosa multiflora Thunb. (Multiflora rose; Invasive)
**Rosa rugosa* Thunb. (Rugosa rose; Potentially Invasive)
Rubus phoenicolasius Maxim. (Wineberry; Potentially Invasive)

Woody Vines

**Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* (Maxim.) Trautv. (Porcelainberry; Potentially Invasive)
Celastrus orbiculatus Thunb. (Oriental bittersweet; Invasive)
**Lonicera japonica* Thunb. (Japanese honeysuckle; Invasive)
Pueraria montana (Lour.) Merr. (Kudzu; Potentially Invasive)

Herbaceous Plants

Aegopodium podagraria L. (Goutweed; Invasive)
Alliaria petiolata (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande (Garlic mustard; Invasive)
Cardamine impatiens L. (Narrowleaf bittercress; Invasive)
Centaurea biebersteinii DC. (Spotted knapweed; Invasive)
Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop. (Canada thistle; Potentially Invasive)

Cynanchum louiseae Kartesz & Gandhi (Black swallow-wort; Invasive)
Cynanchum rossicum (Kleo.) Borhidi (Pale swallow-wort; Invasive)
Datura stramonium L. (Jimsonweed; Potentially Invasive)
Elsholtzia ciliata (Thunb.) Hylander (Crested late-summer mint; Potentially Invasive)
Euphorbia cyparissias L. (Cypress spurge; Potentially Invasive)
Euphorbia esula L. (Leafy spurge; Invasive)
Froelichia gracilis (Hook.) Moq. (Slender snake cotton; Potentially Invasive)
Glechoma hederacea L. (Ground ivy; Potentially Invasive)
Heracleum mantegazzianum Sommier & Lavier (Giant hogweed; Potentially Invasive)
Hesperis matronalis L. (Dame's rocket; Invasive)
Humulus japonicus Sieb. & Zucc. (Japanese hops; Potentially Invasive)
†*Impatiens glandulifera* Royle (Ornamental jewelweed; Potentially Invasive)
Kochia scoparia (L.) Schrader (Common kochia; Potentially Invasive)
Lepidium latifolium L. (Perennial pepperweed; Invasive)
Lychnis flos-cuculi L. (Ragged robin; Potentially Invasive)
**Lysimachia nummularia* L. (Moneywort; Potentially Invasive)
**Lysimachia vulgaris* L. (Garden loosestrife; Potentially Invasive)
Onopordum acanthium L. (Scotch thistle; Potentially Invasive)
Ornithogalum umbellatum L. (Star of Bethlehem; Potentially Invasive)
Polygonum caespitosum Blume (Bristled knotweed; Potentially Invasive)
Polygonum cuspidatum Sieb. & Zucc. (Japanese knotweed; Invasive)
Polygonum perfoliatum L. (Mile-a-minute vine; Invasive)
Polygonum sachalinense F Schmidt ex Maxim. (Giant knotweed; Potentially Invasive)
Ranunculus ficaria L. (Fig buttercup; Invasive)
Rumex acetosella L. (Sheep sorrel; Potentially Invasive)



Canoe on Ford Pond before Phragmites*, 1995. Photo by Jonathan Doster.



Canoe on Ford Pond after Phragmites, 2004. Photo by Aaron Haber.

*Phragmites is an invasive plant which is rapidly taking over shorelines of ponds and wetlands. This non-native plant out-competes native plants and changes wetland habitats needed by native wildlife.

- †*Senecio jacobaea* L. (Tansy ragwort; Potentially Invasive)
- Silphium perfoliatum* L. (Cup plant; Potentially Invasive)
- Solanum dulcamara* L. (Bittersweet nightshade; Potentially Invasive)
- Tussilago farfara* L. (Coltsfoot; Invasive)
- Valeriana officinalis* L. (Garden heliotrope; Potentially Invasive)

Grasses and Grass-like Plants

- Arthraxon hispidus* (Thunb.) Makino (Hairy jointgrass; Potentially Invasive)
- Bromus tectorum* L. (Drooping brome-grass; Potentially Invasive)
- †*Carex kobomugi* Owhi (Japanese sedge; Potentially Invasive)
- Glyceria maxima* (Hartman) Holmburg (Reed mannagrass; Potentially Invasive)
- Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus (Japanese stilt grass; Invasive)
- **Miscanthus sinensis* Anderss. (Eulalia; Potentially Invasive)
- Phalaris arundinacea* L. (Reed canary grass; Invasive)
- Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. (Common reed; Invasive)
- Poa compressa* L. (Canada bluegrass; Potentially Invasive)

Appendix VII

LIST OF CONNECTICUT-BANNED INVASIVE SPECIES

Notwithstanding the provisions of any ordinance adopted by a municipality, no person shall import, move, sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute any of the following invasive plants:

Currently Banned Invasive Plants

- (1) curly-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
- (2) fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)
- (3) eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- (4) variable water milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)
- (5) water chestnut (*Trapa natans*)
- (6) egeria (*Egeria densa*)
- (7) hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- (8) common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)
- (9) autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
- (10) Bell's honeysuckle (*Lonicera xbella*)
- (11) amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
- (12) Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*)
- (13) common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
- (14) multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- (15) Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- (16) garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- (17) narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*)
- (18) spotted knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*)
- (19) black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*)
- (20) pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*)
- (21) leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)



Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Sharon Audubon Center. Photo by Jonathan Doster.

- (22) Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- (23) perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)
- (24) Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
- (25) mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- (26) fig buttercup (*Ranunculus ficaria*)
- (27) coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)
- (28) Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- (29) common reed (*Phragmites australis*)
- (30) sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
- (31) princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
- (32) white poplar (*Populus alba*)
- (33) false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
- (34) Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*)
- (35) wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)
- (36) kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)
- (37) Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- (38) jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium*)
- (39) crested late-summer mint (*Elsholtzia ciliata*)
- (40) cypress spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)
- (41) slender snake cotton (*Froelichia gracilis*)
- (42) ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*)
- (43) giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- (44) Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*)
- (45) ornamental jewelweed (*Impatiens glanulifera*)
- (46) common kochia (*Kochia scoparia*)
- (47) ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
- (48) Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)
- (49) bristle knotweed (*Polygonum caespitosum*)
- (50) giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*)
- (51) sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)
- (52) ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
- (53) cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)
- (54) bittersweet nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*)
- (55) garden heliotrope (*Valeriana officinalis*)

- (56) hairy jointgrass (*Arthraxon hispidus*)
- (57) drooping brome-grass (*Bromus tectorum*)
- (58) Japanese sedge (*Carex kobomugi*)
- (59) reed managrass (*Glyceria maxima*)
- (60) Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*)
- (61) tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

And to include On and After October 1, 2005, no person shall import, move, sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute any of the following invasive plants:

- (1) purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- (2) forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*)
- (3) Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
- (4) goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraia*)
- (5) flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
- (6) pond water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*)
- (7) European waterclover (*Marsilea quadrifolia*)
- (8) parrotfeather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
- (9) brittle water-nymph (*Najas minor*)
- (10) American water lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*)
- (11) yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)
- (12) onerow yellowcress (*Rorippa microphylla*)
- (13) watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*),
except for watercress sold for human consumption
- (14) giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)
- (15) yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)
- (16) water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)
- (17) border privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*)
- (18) tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)
- (19) dwarf honeysuckle (*Lonicera xylosteum*)
- (20) garden looserife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*)

Appendix VIII

NOTABLE TREES OF SHARON, CONNECTICUT



Common Name	Scientific Name	Circumference
American White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	230 inches
Northern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	92 inches
Bigtooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	58 inches
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	10 inches
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	269 inches
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	217 inches
Austrian Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	125 inches
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	154 inches

Compiled from Connecticut College Notable Trees database, updated December 2003.

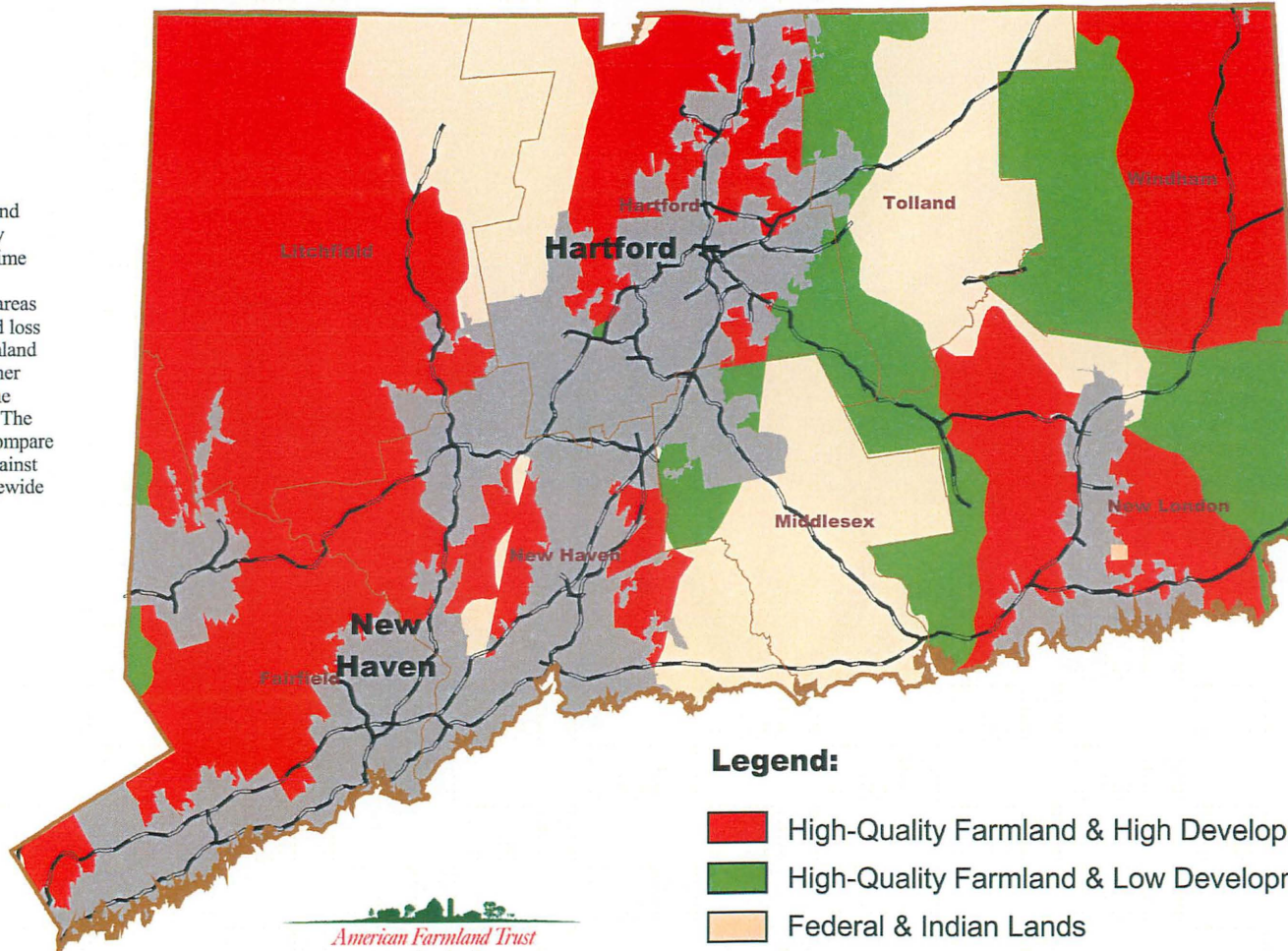
Sunset from Jackson Hill Road. Photo by Aaron Haber.

FARMING ON THE EDGE

Sprawling Development Threatens America's Best Farmland

Connecticut

High-quality farmland areas have relatively large amounts of prime or unique farmland. High-development areas have relatively rapid loss of high-quality farmland to development. Other areas do not meet the two threshold tests. The relative measures compare sub-county areas against their respective statewide averages.



Legend:

- High-Quality Farmland & High Development
- High-Quality Farmland & Low Development
- Federal & Indian Lands
- Urban Areas
- Other Lands

American Farmland Trust
www.farmland.org



03/04/03

Appendix X

RESOURCES, PROGRAMS, AND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO LANDOWNERS, FARMERS, AND MUNICIPALITIES

Some Agricultural Resources for Farmers, Landowners, and Municipal Agents

Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland:

A Guide for Landowners, Land Trusts, and
Municipalities

Contact: Cris Coffin

Tel.: (413) 586-9330, ext. 29

Download the guide at http://www.farmland.org/northeast/Connecticut_Landowner_Guide.pdf

This is a free guide put out by the American Farmland Trust, outlining programs specific to Connecticut to assist and preserve farms.

Farm Reinvestment (Enhancement)
Grant Program

Hartford, CT

Contact: Department of Agriculture

Tel.: (860) 713-2503

The purpose of the program is to ensure the viability of agriculture in our state. By providing money for capital enhancement to farms, it is the department's hope to help preserve Connecticut's agricultural base and improve farm production.

Connecticut Farmland Trust

77 Buckingham Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Tel.: (860) 247-0202

Web site: www.ctfarmland.org

This is the Connecticut chapter of the American Farmland Trust.

The New Connecticut Farmer Initiative

Contact: Elizabeth Wheeler

Tel.: (860) 247-0202

E-mail: lwheeler@ctfarmland.org

Connects landowners with land to lease with farmers looking for affordable farmland.



Humeston farm on White Hollow Road. Photo by Aaron Haber.

CT Department of Agriculture Farmland
Preservation Program
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel.: (860) 713-2511
Web site: <http://www.state.ct.us/doag>

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS),
Torrington Service Center
1185 New Litchfield Street
Torrington, CT 06790-6017
Tel.: (860) 626-8258; fax: (860) 626-8850

Connecticut Farm Bureau, Litchfield County Office
Hans Bauer, P.D.
P.O. Box 5
Litchfield, CT 06759-0005
Tel.: (860) 567-9019
E-mail: hbauer@optonline.net
Web site: <http://www.cfba.org>

Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, voluntary organization of farm families united to find solutions for concerns facing production agriculture in our counties, state, and nation. Connecticut Farm Bureau provides farmers with a strong, clear voice in state and national issues. Volunteer leaders and staff work closely with state and federal regulatory agencies and elected officials on issues ranging from economic viability, property rights, taxation, and land use planning to labor laws and farmland preservation.

Northeast Organic Farming Association,
Connecticut Chapter
P.O. Box 135
Stevenson, CT 06491-0135
Tel.: (203) 888-5146
Web site: <http://ct.nofa.org>

Connecticut Offices for the USDA's Farm Service
Agency
344 Merrow Rd., Suite B
Tolland, CT 06084
Tel.: (860) 871-2944; fax: (860) 279-4184
Web site: www.fsa.usda.gov/ct/

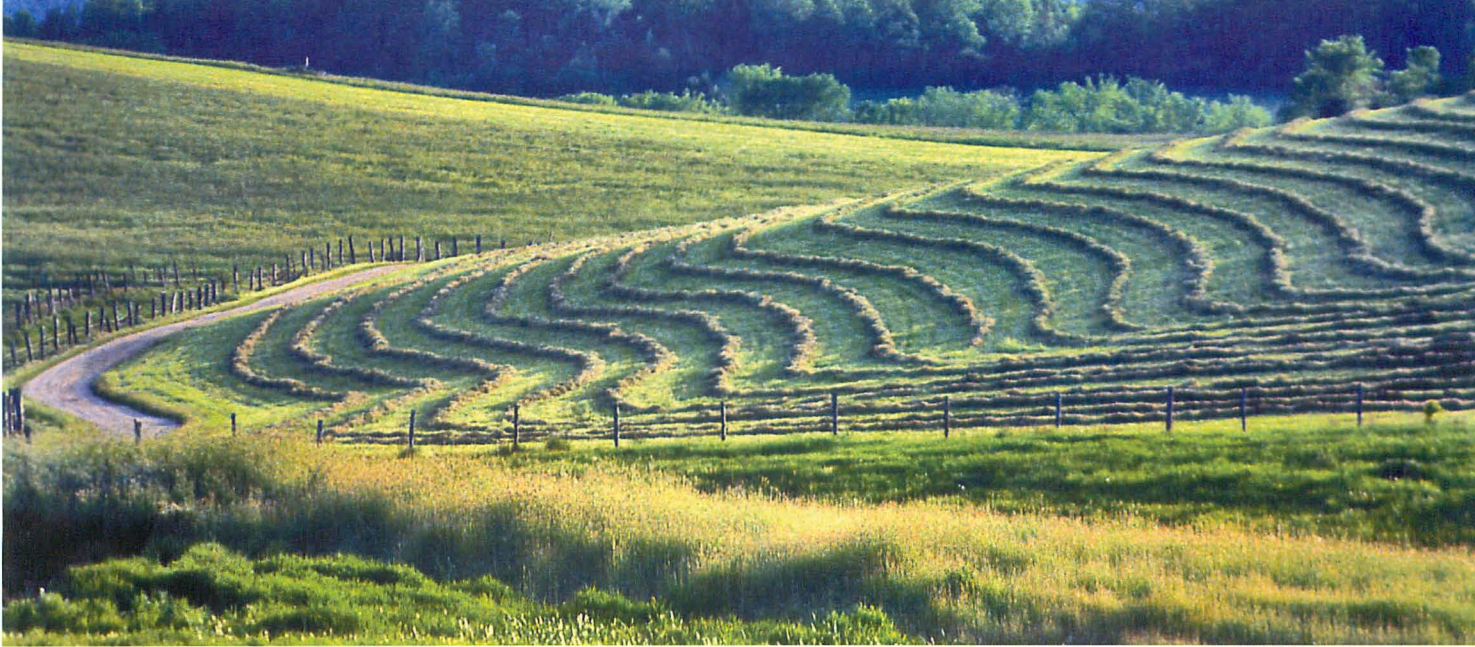
Some Forestry Resources for Landowners and Municipal Agents

The University of Connecticut Cooperative
Extension System (CES)
Torrington Cooperative Extension System Office
1304 Winsted Road
Torrington, CT 06790
Tel.: (860) 626-6240
Web site: www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest

Professional educators are available to answer questions and provide information on a wide variety of topics. The Extension System also offers periodic workshops, field days and short courses, and produces a variety of educational publications. To obtain a list of publications available from the



Creel Farm buildings
seen from Route 41.
Photo by Jonathan
Doster.



Chase Farm fields, Amenia Union Road (Route 41). Photo by Jonathan Doster.

Cooperative Extension System, write to the CIT
Bulletin Room, Box U-35, University of Connecticut,
Storrs, CT 06269-4035; or visit
www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/forest/pub.htm

The Department of Environmental Protection
(DEP) Division of Forestry
Contact: Larry Rousseau
DEP Western District HQ
230 Plymouth Road
Harwinton, CT 06791
Tel.: (860) 485-0226

DEP Service Foresters can spend a limited amount of time on the ground with a landowner providing forestry advice and assistance. There is no fee. A visit from your Service Forester is a wise first step in any forest stewardship program. He/she can provide you with a basic Forest Cover Map, delineating the different plant communities on your forest; a set of Stewardship Options—possible activities you could undertake that would help you reach your forest stewardship goals; and some Recommended Action Steps—concrete “where to go from here” information should you choose to follow up on any or all of the stewardship options.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Web site: www.fsa.usda.gov

The FSA is a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will pay up to 75% of the cost a woodland owner incurs by implementing certain

forest management practices. Reimbursement is provided under two programs:

1. Forest Stewardship Program
Thomas Worthley, Stewardship Program Forester
Haddam Cooperative Extension Center
1066 Saybrook Road, Box 70
Haddam, CT 06438-0070
Tel. (toll-free): (888) 30WOODS [(888) 309-6637]
Tel.: (860) 345-4511; fax: (860) 345-3357
E-mail: tworthle@canr1.cag.uconn.edu
Practices covered include forest stewardship plan development, reforestation, forest improvement, soil and water protection, riparian and wetland protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation and aesthetic enhancement.
2. The Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP)
Reimburses woodland owners up to 50–75% of the cost of preparing a site for planting and/or planting a stand of forest trees, improving a timber stand by thinning, pruning, or releasing desirable trees, and preparing a site for natural reseeding of desirable tree species. Contact a DEP Service Forester.

Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut
Tricia Kasulaitis, Secretary
69 Goose Green Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
Tel.: (860) 379-8787

Promotes maple sugaring for fun and/or profit.

Appendix XI

COMPARISON OF PDR PROGRAMS IN CONNECTICUT

	Farmland Preservation Program Connecticut Department of Agriculture	Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program USDA/NRCS
Who may apply?	Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities • Water companies • Nonprofit conservation organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities • States • Nonprofit conservation organizations
Eligibility requirements	Property must <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be part of an active farm operation; • include a minimum of 30 acres of cropland or be adjacent to a larger parcel; and • have some prime or important agricultural soils. 	Program can be used to purchase development rights on farmland or farmland in fee. No minimum acreage or prime agricultural soils required.	Property must <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be part of active farm operation; and • have prime or important agricultural soils or have historic or archeological resources Applicant must have pending written offer with landowner.
Selection criteria	Priority given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land with high % of prime and important agricultural soils; and • land in proximity to other farmland, protected lands and farm services. 	Priority given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land vulnerable to development; • projects that comply with local and/or regional open space plans or plans of conservation and development; • land with diverse categories of natural resources; and • projects with pending written offer with landowner. 	Priority given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land vulnerable to development; • land with high % of prime and important agricultural soils; • projects with high % of non-federal matching funds; and • projects with some non-federal matching funds in hand.
Cost-share requirements	State may pay up to 100% of fair market value (FMV) of development rights.	State will pay up to 50% of either FMV of development rights or purchase price, whichever is less.	The FRPP will pay up to 50% of FMV of development rights. Applicant must provide cash match of either 25% of development rights value or 50% of purchase price. Landowner donations of up to 25% of development rights value may be considered part of applicant's match.
Easement requirements	Only agricultural and compatible uses permitted. Property may never be subdivided or converted to non-agricultural use. No public access required.	Public access required. Limited agriculture-related structures permitted on protected land.	USDA farm conservation plan required. USDA easement language required.
Application period	Applications accepted continuously. Applications must be approved by State Properties Review Board and State Bond Commission.	Applications accepted during announced grant rounds. DEP approves applications with input from Conn. Dept. of Ag., Conn. Dept. of Health and relevant DEP divisions.	Applications accepted during annual announced Request For Proposals periods. The USDA/NRCS approves applications.

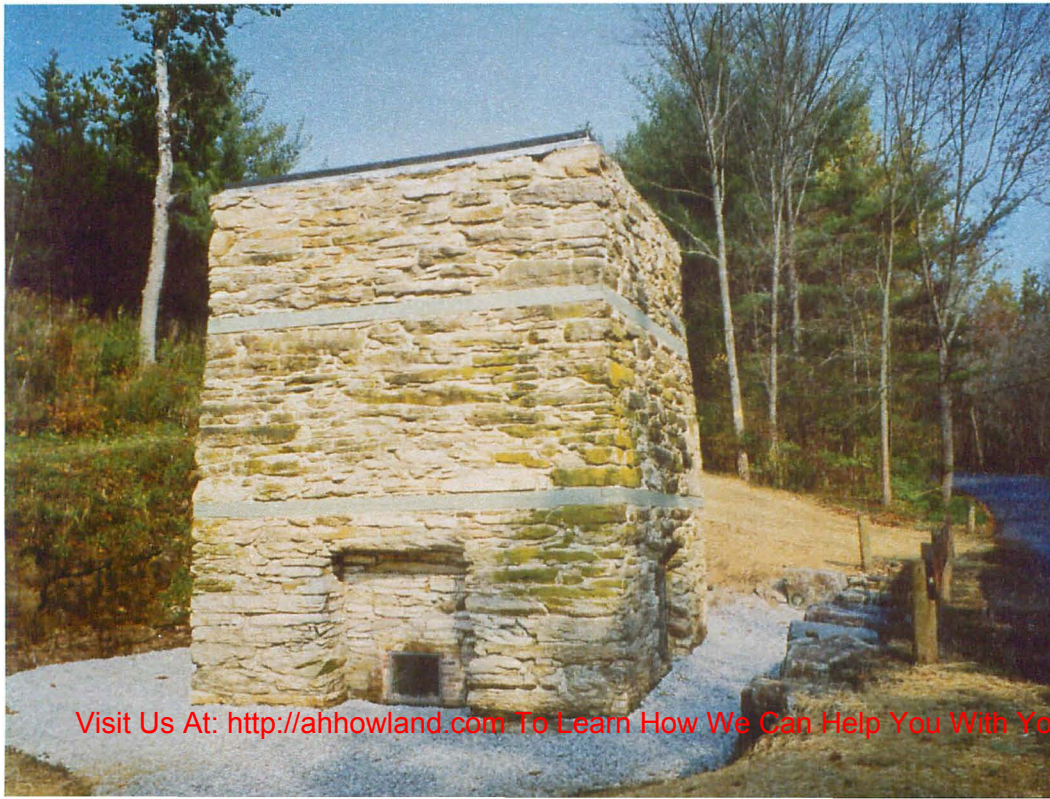
From *Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland, A Guide for Landowners Land Trusts and Municipalities*, American Farmland Trust.

Appendix XII

KEY TO SHARON HISTORICAL MAP

(Large version in Sharon Town Hall with smaller reproduction on p. 48)

1. Cortet's Sawmill 1745
2. Benedict's Forge
3. Moravian Monument
4. Mohican Settlement area
(Colonial Contact Period)
5. Skinner's Forge 1740
6. Benedict Mill
7. Sharon Electric Light
Company, built 1895
8. Fulling & Carding Mill
9. Lime Kiln (see photo below)
10. Sharon Valley Iron Company
Blast Furnace
11. Joel Harvey's Gristmill
12. Hotchkiss & Sons first manu-
facturing plant
13. Site of Jewett Manufacturing
Company, later owned by J. J.
Doyle, later the Noyes
Malleable Iron Company
14. Sharon Valley Iron Company
Office, built 1873 (now
Sharon Valley Tavern)



Benedict Mill/ Sharon
Electric Light Company on
Mudge Pond Brook c.
1900.

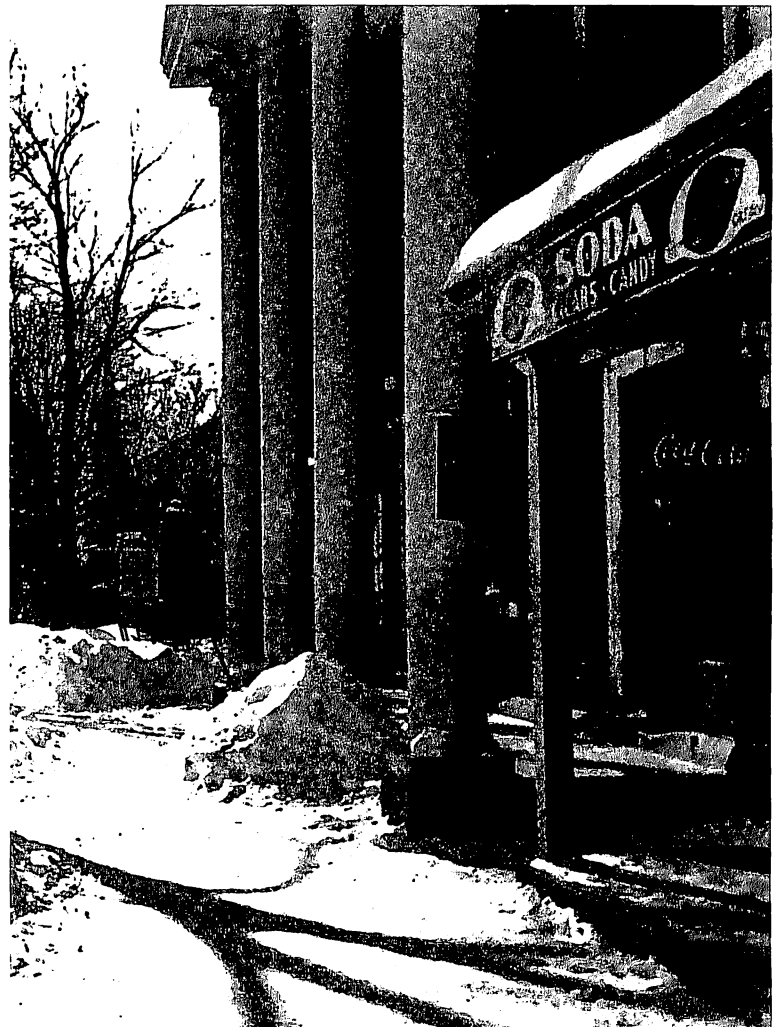
Lime Kiln in Sharon Valley
c. 1873. Restored 2003-4.



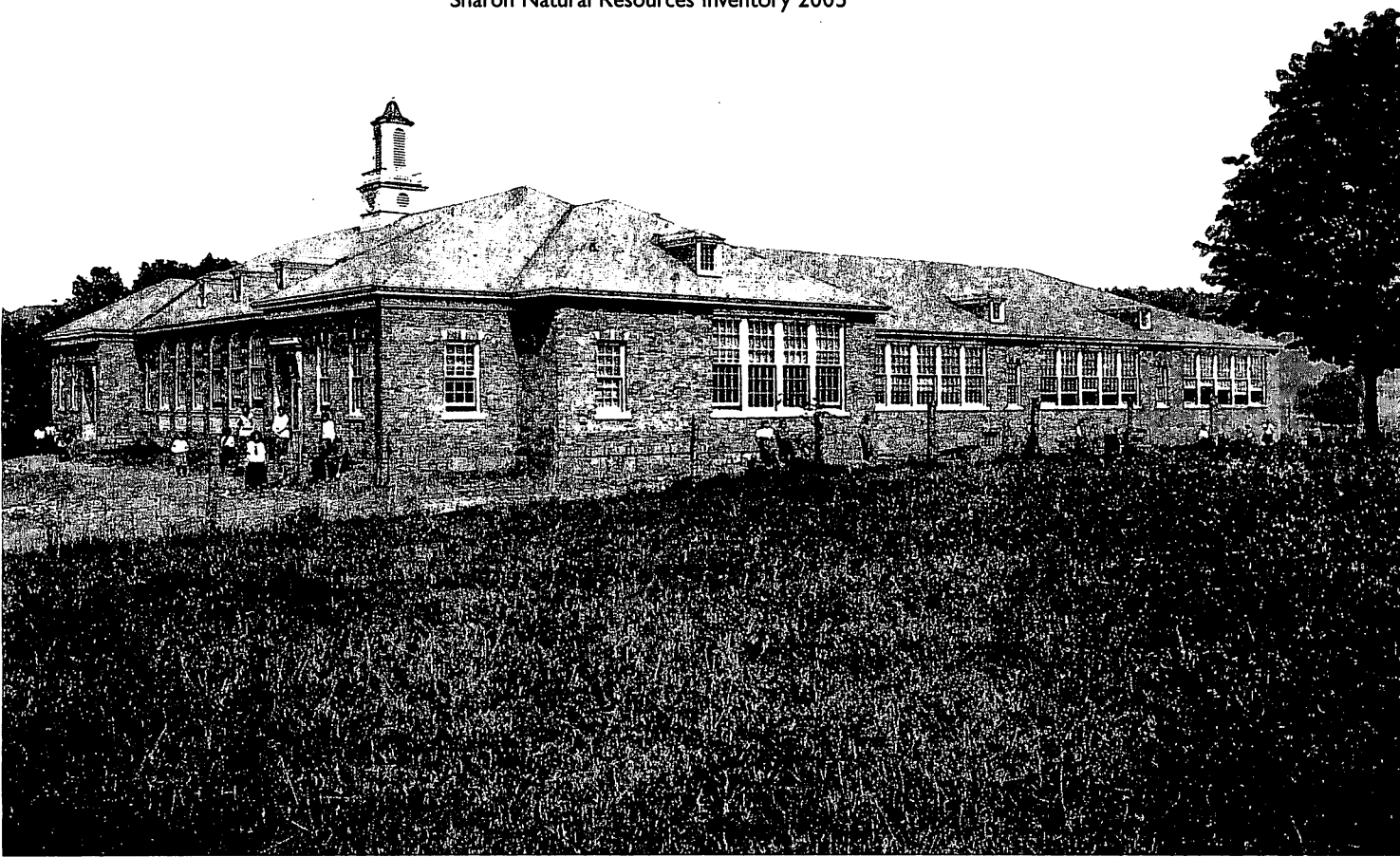
Sharon Valley Iron Company
Blast Furnace c. 1880.

Roland Marckres store next
to Sharon Town Hall. Photo
by George Marckres.

15. 1814 Lime Kiln
16. Indian Campsite
17. Hiram Weed's Furnace and Forge
18. Wagon Shop
19. Doyle's Foundry
20. Weed's and Gillette's Foundry
21. Hiram Weed's Lime Kiln
22. Tannery
23. Moses Handlin's Mills, (now Miles Sanctuary)
24. Kaolin Clay Beds
25. Hutchinson's Forge 1760, then Weed's Forge 1840
26. Gray's Forge 1750
27. The Forging Place
28. North Bridge (owned by Cornwall Kaolin Co.)
29. Hart's or Upper Bridge 1760 (Covered Bridge 1864)
30. Young's or Middle Bridge
31. CCC Camp 1933-1938
32. Ferry across Housatonic River—Lewis Bridge 1770—Covered Bridge—Cornwall Bridge 1934
33. Swift's Bridge
34. Swift's Gristmill



Sharon Natural Resources Inventory 2005



Sharon Center School, Grades 1–12, c. 1923.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 35. Gristmill on Guinea Brook | 58. Methodist Church |
| 36. Forge | 59. Civil War memorial |
| 37. Micah Mudge's Gristmill | 60. St. Bernard Catholic Church |
| 38. Nail Mill | 61. Sharon Fire Department |
| 39. Studley's Wagon Shop and Sawmill | 62. Sharon Hospital |
| 40. Hall's Sawmill | 63. Tri-Arts (Sharon Playhouse) |
| 41. Everett's Gristmill | 64. Sharon Center School |
| 42. Peck's Sawmill | 65. Sharon Burying Ground (now Hillside Cemetery) |
| 43. Morgan's Mine, magnetic ore mine | 66. Pine Swamp Burying Ground (now Sharon East Side Cemetery) |
| 44. Handlin's Mill (now Sharon Audubon Center) | 67. Cartwright Burying Ground (now East Street Cemetery) |
| 45. Smith's Gristmill 1745 | 68. Boland District Burying Ground |
| 46. Deming's Mill | 69. St. Bernard Cemetery |
| 47. Satinet Mill | 70. Burying Ground in Tichnor's Woods |
| 48. Luther Holly's birthplace | 71. Amenia Union Burying Ground (now Methodist Association Cemetery) |
| 49. Buckley Plow factory | 72. Ellsworth Burying Ground |
| 50. Garrett Winegar's Gristmill | 73. Sharon Valley Iron Company Mine |
| 51. Clocktower | |
| 52. Veterans' Memorial | |
| 53. Sharon Historical Society | |
| 54. Hotchkiss Library | |
| 55. Sharon Town Hall | |
| 56. First Church of Christ Congregational | |
| 57. Christ Church Episcopal | |

See large-scale, numbered map in the Town Hall for locations.

Appendix XIII

RECREATION IN SHARON

List of Discontinued Roads with Recreational Easements

MOTION: Resolved that this day, January 7, 1993, the Selectmen of the Town of Sharon do hereby discontinue, as approved by Special Town Meeting action, December 18, 1992, and in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statute, Section 13a - 49, the following specified portions of the following named roads for all uses by the public except the recreational uses as defined and permitted in Section 13a - 141(b), including construction and maintenance incidental to such permitted uses.

	Assessor Map	Approx. Length
1. <u>Morey Rd</u> from end of maintained portion to Kent town line	3	1.2
2. <u>Joray Rd</u> from West Woods Rd. to Lods house	5&9	.9
3. <u>Cemetery Rd</u> from Ellsworth Cemetery to the Martin house	5	.53
4. <u>Unnamed Rd</u> from Cemetery Rd. to Joray Rd.	5	.48
5. <u>Hall Rd.</u> from Lord's driveway to Dawn Hill Rd.	6	.25
6. <u>Cesar Rd.</u> from Stoll house to Route 7	11&15	1.80
7. <u>Smith Rd.</u> from Halliday house to Sharon Mt. Rd.	13	.51
8. <u>Graham Rd.</u> from Hayden house to Sharon Mt. Rd.	14	.50
9. <u>Kings Hill Rd. #1</u> from Fairchild Rd. to Sharon Mt. Rd.	14	.49
10. <u>Fairchild Rd.</u> from cul-de-sac to West Cornwall Rd.	14&18	1.75
11. <u>Surdan Mt. Rd.</u> from Cesar Rd. to Gates house	15	.75
12. <u>Hosier Rd.</u> from Creel barn to Salisbury Town line	21	.80

SELECTMEN : P. Robert Moeller
P. Robert Moeller









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Edward O. Heacox

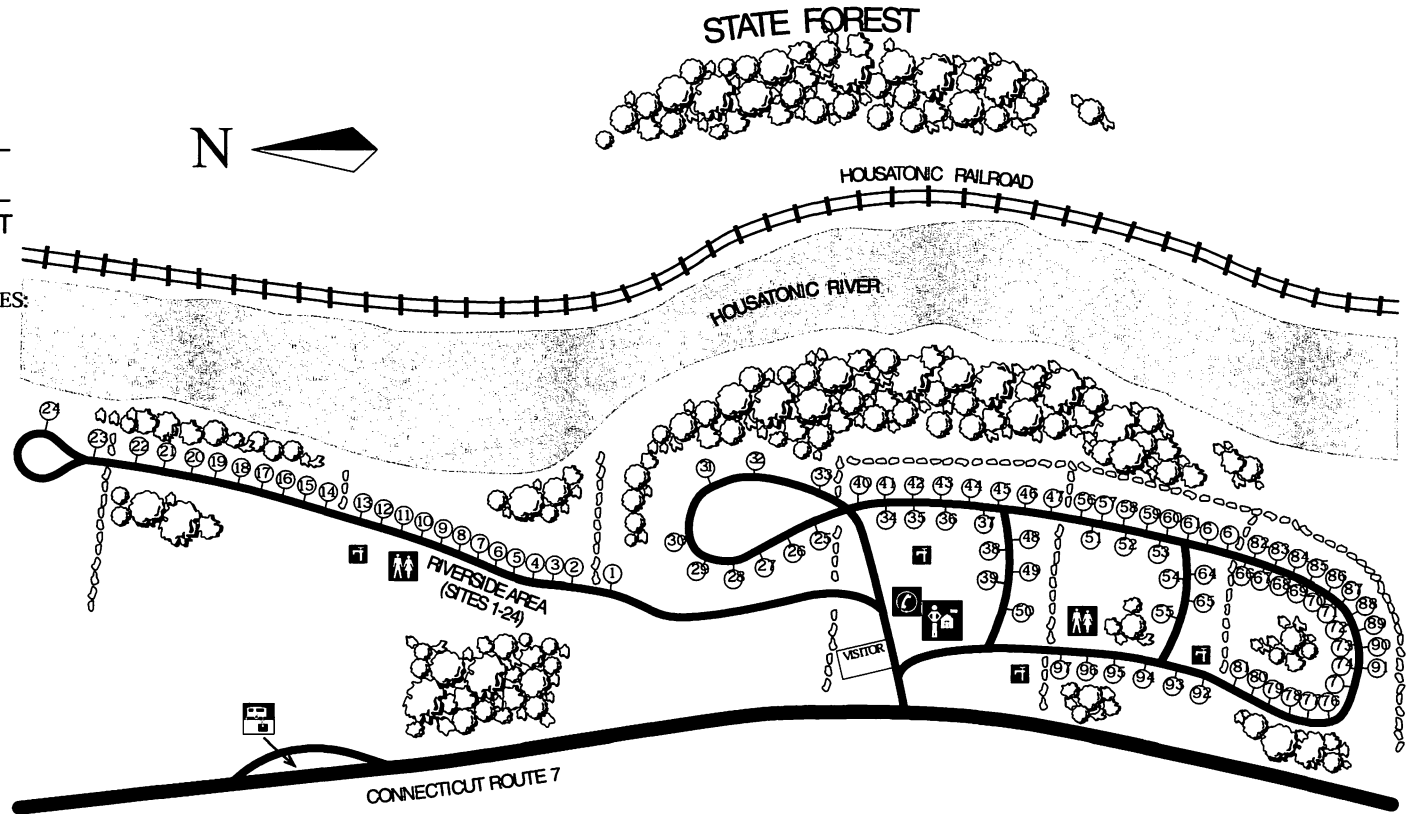
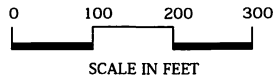
TOWN OF SHARON : Thomas H. Bartlam
Thomas H. Bartlam

HOUSATONIC MEADOWS STATE PARK CAMPGROUND

SHARON, CONNECTICUT

KEY TO FACILITIES AND SERVICES:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | TOILET |  | CAMP
MANAGER'S
OFFICE |
|  | TELEPHONE |  | WATER |
|  | WOODED |  | DUMPING |
|  | STONE |  | RAILROAD
TRACKS |



Housatonic Meadows State Park

SHARON, CONNECTICUT

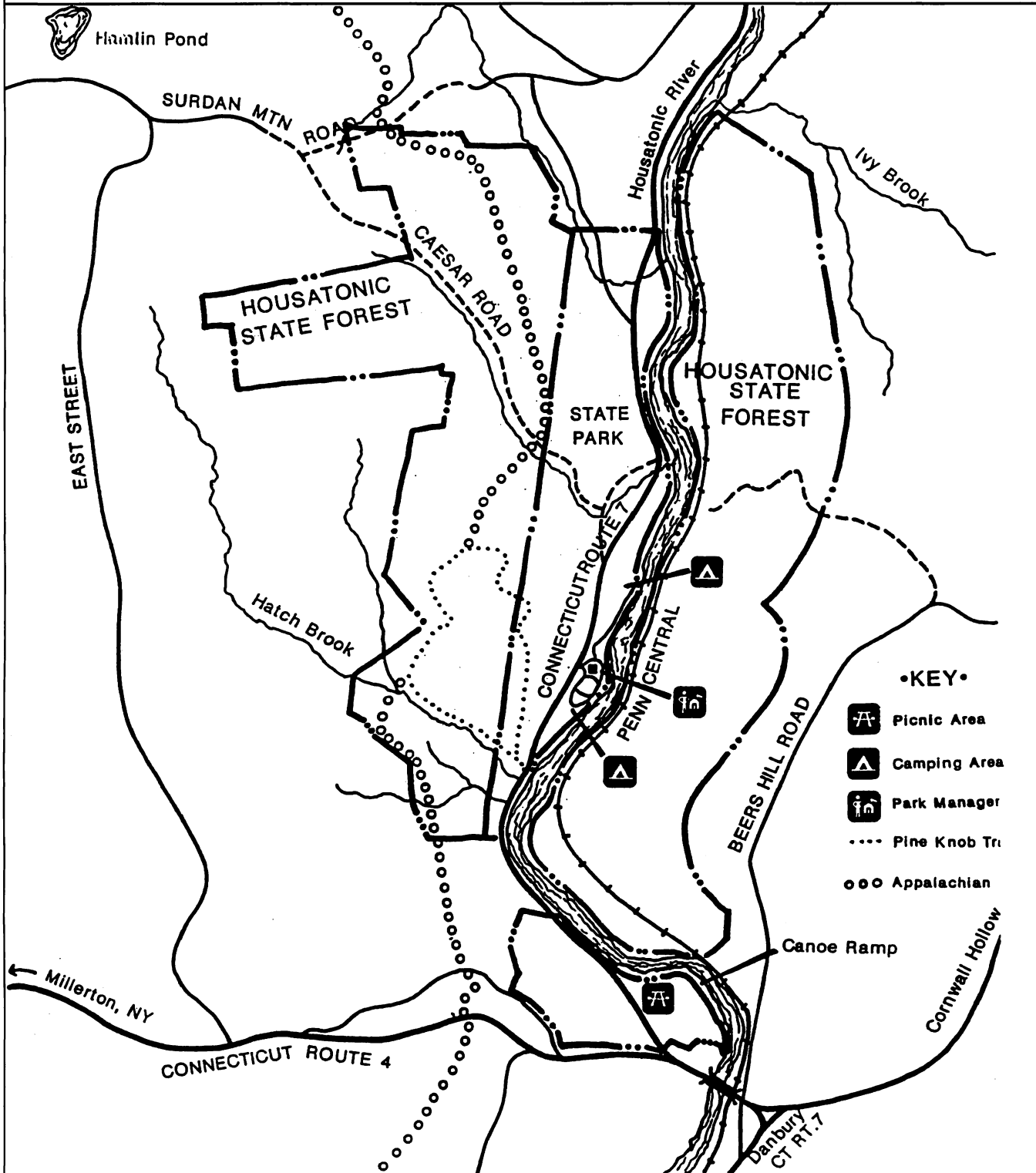




Photo by Jonathan Doster.