



BRIEFING BOOKLET
Conservation-Related Strategies

NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWINGTON
2020 POCD

4

POSSIBLE
GOAL
STATEMENT

Continue to protect water quality and environmentally significant areas.

Protection of natural resources in Newington is important in terms of preserving environmental functions, protecting community character, and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Water Resources

Water resources in Newington include:

- Surface Water - Surface water features such as brooks, streams, and ponds can be the most visible water-related resources.
- Wetlands – Wetlands and vernal pools help maintain water quality, control flooding, and support biodiversity in Newington.
- Groundwater - Groundwater resources store significant amounts of water which helps maintain base flows in streams and rivers.
- Floodplains - Flooding along watercourses is a natural phenomenon associated with spring thaws and major storm events.

Preserving and protecting water quality may be the most important natural resource strategy in Newington. Protection of water quality can occur by:

- Preserving wetland areas and other natural drainage systems due to their important natural functions,
- Providing vegetated buffers (ideally of natural vegetation) along watercourses and waterbodies,
- Implementing “low impact development” (LID) practices to address the quality of stormwater runoff and help recharge groundwater supplies.
- Reducing or eliminating erosion and sedimentation, and
- Discouraging the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides,

Drainage issues can be a challenge in some areas of Newington. Much development in Newington occurred before knowledge of runoff dynamics was as evolved as it is today. Tighter soil types and flatter topography can slow the ability of water runoff to discharge in a timely way in many areas in Newington.

Land Resources

The key land resource in Newington is Cedar Mountain, one of seven traprock ridgelines in Connecticut. This unique landform is significant due to the natural habitats it provides and the plants and animals it supports. The scenic views to and from Cedar Mountain are a key element in the overall aesthetic character of Newington.

Since 2005 Newington has had regulations in place (Zoning Regulations Section 4.4.6) to protect the Cedar Mountain traprock ridgeline and adjacent areas. In recognition of this important natural resources, Newington has acquired ownership and easements of key properties along the ridgeline (such as some land at the state-owned Cedarcrest Hospital site on Russell Road) in order to continue to preserve its important environmental and cultural functions.

Plant and Animal Resources

Newington supports a variety of plant and animal habitats. Some locations in Newington have been identified by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as “natural diversity areas.” These locations are known to contain endangered, threatened and special concern species and/or significant natural communities.

Trees have been recognized as a key tool for mitigating climate change as well as enhancing community character.

In order to manage biodiversity, Newington will seek to require the use of native species (and remove invasive species and discourage or prohibit their future use) in Newington.

Air Resources

There is growing awareness that air pollutants (including greenhouse gas emissions) are having impacts on people’s quality of life and Newington will seek ways to address this issue in the future.

Piper Brook



View To The West From Cedar Mountain



Natural Resources

Newington, CT

Water Resources

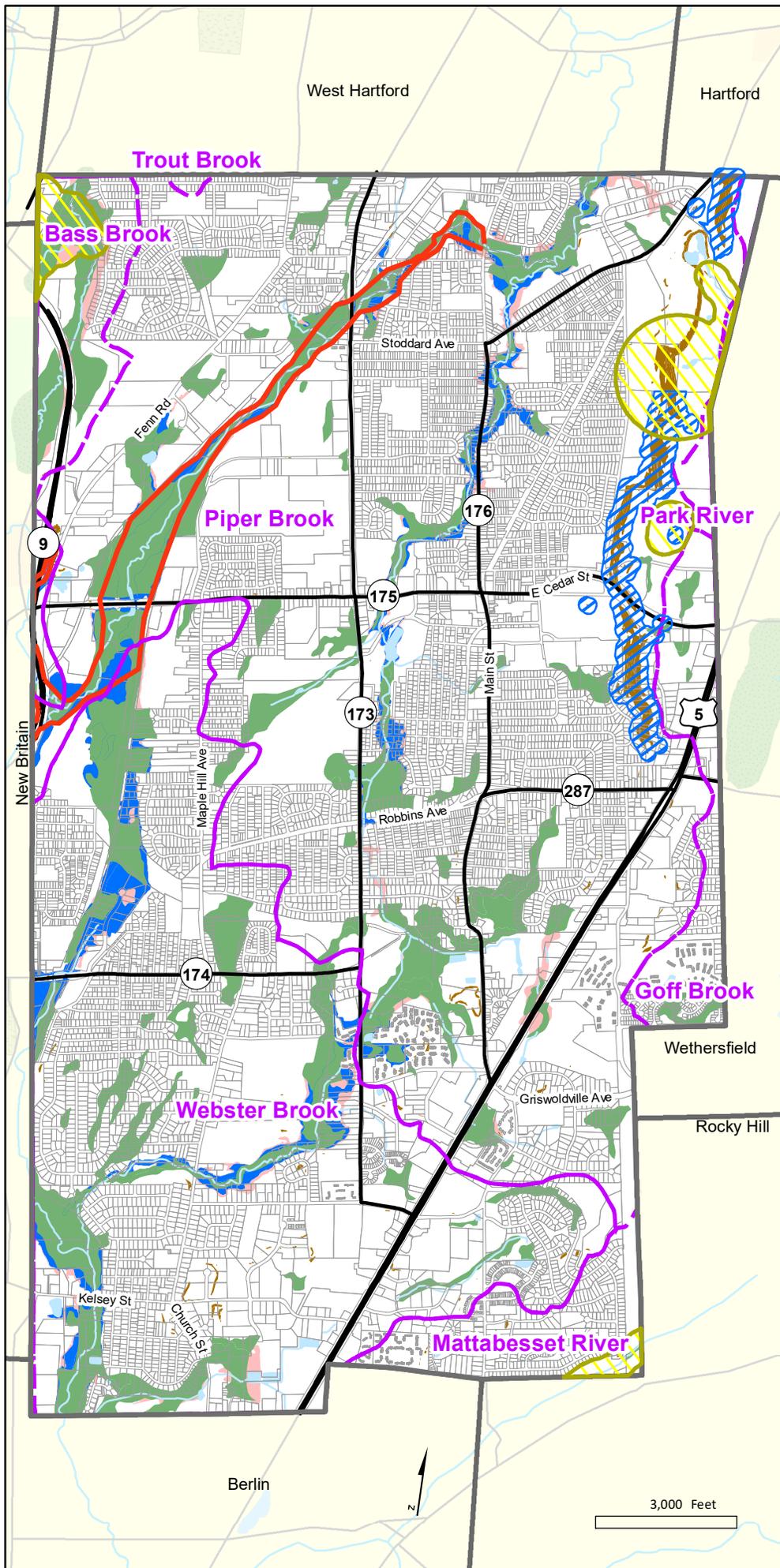
-  Watercourse
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Wetland
-  Channel Encroach. Line
-  100 year Flood Plain
-  500 year Flood Plain

Land Resources

-  USGS Steep_Slope (>25%)
-  Potential Ridgeline Setback Area

Biologic Resources

-  Natural Diversity Database (NDDB)



Do these policies and action steps make sense for Newington?

Are there any policies or action steps you feel should be added or deleted?

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR 2020 POCD

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)

1. Continue to protect important natural resources such as watercourses, wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, ridgelines, and areas listed on the State’s Natural Diversity Database.
2. Continue to use open space dedication and conservation easements to protect important natural resources, such as Cedar Mountain.
3. To maintain and improve water quality in Newington, continue to:
 - a. Implement “low impact development” techniques which will protect water quality and manage water quantity,
 - b. Seek ways to reduce the amount of impervious coverage and/or increase the amount of pervious surfaces,
 - c. Enforce soil erosion and sedimentation control measures, and
 - d. Seek to remediate areas where water quality is impaired.
4. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of trees and tree cover for environmental and aesthetic benefits.
5. Encourage the use of native species (and discourage the use of invasive species) in Newington.
6. Promote efforts to maintain and improve air quality such as reducing emissions from idling vehicles and promoting transit-oriented development.
7. Continue to inform and educate residents and businesses about:
 - a. The importance of protecting natural resources,
 - b. Using native plants in landscaping,
 - c. Reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, and
 - d. Best management practices for protecting water quality.
8. Continue to collaborate with other conservation organizations to protect important natural resources.

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)

1. Amend the Zoning Regulations to require the use of native species listed on the Connecticut Native Tree and Shrub List as part of any TPZ approval.
2. Create a GIS mapping layer clearly identifying the Ridgeline Setback Area as defined in the Zoning Regulations.
3. Undertake programs to encourage the preservation, maintenance, and planting of trees for their environmental benefits (such as interception of rainfall, removal of CO₂, heat relief, habitat, and other benefits).