



## Capitol Region Plan of Conservation and Development Conservation Focus Areas

The areas highlighted on this map represent lands currently preserved, or worthy of some consideration for conservation/preservation, based on their natural resource or historic value. The conservation corridors represent areas where potential exists to link larger parcels of environmentally-sensitive and preserved land in order to protect significant natural features and habitat that span municipal boundaries.

CRCOG will use this policy map, along with the Regional Plan's goals and policies and site-specific information, to support proposals consistent with the conservation/preservation of these important historic and natural features.

### NOTES ON DATA LAYERS:

- 1) "Conservation Corridors" are areas which link sensitive and preserved land across municipalities. These corridors are created visually, using stream-belts, existing open space, soil classification and watershed boundaries for guidance. Permanent preservation of lands within these general corridors is of high regional importance.
- 2) "Areas of Municipal Focus" have been identified by town planners and include existing or potential conservation greenways, open space connections, commercial, retail or mixed-use centers, traditional neighborhood developments, village greens, village centers, historic areas, transit oriented developments and technology or business centers.
- 3) "Existing Open Space" designation includes federal, municipal, and state open space as identified by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in 2007. In addition to these federal, state and municipal open space lands, this designation includes permanently protected lands as identified by town planners as having been recently purchased by local land trusts, protected through transfer of development rights, or permanently protected by way of some other mechanism. Finally, the existing open space layer includes open space lands that town planners identified as critical pieces of a municipality's open space system.
- 4) "Priority Conservation Areas" designation includes those forested wetlands or wetland areas, located at least 500' from development, that are not currently protected, and that contain at least one of the following features: potential rare or threatened species, potential habitat area, aquifer protection area, prime farmland soil or that abut protected lands. The layer also contains lands identified by planners and commissioners as priority lands for conservation efforts that are not currently protected or designated as conservation land.
- 5) "Environmentally Sensitive Areas" include D.E.E.P. designated Natural Diversity Database Zones, wellhead and aquifer protection areas (with 400-foot buffer), and a 100-foot buffer around water bodies.
- 6) "Public Water and Sewer Service Areas" are 1/4 mile buffered areas from the extent of existing public sewer and water lines. These areas are seen on the map where they exist in areas not currently designated as (3), (4) or (5) above.
- 7) "Other Lands" is all remaining land that did not meet the criteria of the above data layers. Established residential, industrial and commercial areas, as well as forested areas, agricultural areas, and other undeveloped lands are included.

Data Sources Include: CRCOG GIS Database, U.S. Census TIGER Files, Municipal Assessors, Municipal Planners, Connecticut DEEP, Connecticut DPH, Connecticut DOT, and The Trust for Public Lands.

Adopted by the CRCOG Policy Board May 21, 2014