

# Soundview, Summerfield and Wiacek Properties

(Open Space #80)  
Shelton, Connecticut  
King's Mark



## Environmental Review Team Report

King's Mark  
Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc

Soundview and Wiacek Properties  
Shelton, Connecticut



## Environmental Review Team Report

Prepared by the  
King's Mark Environmental Review Team

Of the  
King's Mark Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

For the  
Conservation Commission  
Shelton, Connecticut

April 2010

Report #353

[www.ctert.org](http://www.ctert.org)

## Acknowledgements

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the Shelton Conservation Commission to the Southwest Conservation District (SWCD) and the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) Council and ERT Subcommittee for their consideration and approval. The request was approved and the measure reviewed by the King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Elaine Sych, would like to thank and gratefully acknowledge the following Team members whose professionalism and expertise were invaluable to the completion of this report.

The field review took place on Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

Nicholas Bellantoni	State Archaeologist UCONN – Office of State Archaeology (860) 486-5248
Teresa Gagnon	Geologist DEP - State Geological & Natural History Survey of CT (860-418-5931
Joseph Hickey	Recreation Planner CT Greenways Council (860) 529-4363
Lisa Krall	Soil Interpretation Specialist USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (860) 871-4051
Dawn McKay	Biologist, Environmental Analyst DEP – Natural Diversity Data Base (860) 424-3592
Roman Mrozinski	Executive Director Southwest Conservation District (203) 269-7509
Dave Poirier	Staff Archaeologist State Historical Preservation Office (860) 256-2761
Charlotte Pyle	Landscape Ecologist USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (860) 871-4066

Randolph Steinen

Geologist

DEP – State Geological & Natural History Survey of CT

UCONN – Geology (emeritus)

(860) 487-0226

I would also like to thank Teresa Gallagher, conservation director, Ron Herrick, parks and recreation, Tom Harbinson and Jim Tate, conservation commission members, for their cooperation and assistance during this environmental review.

Prior to the review day, each Team member received a summary of the proposed project with location maps. During the field review Team members were given additional information. Some Team members conducted a map review only. Following the review, reports from each Team member were submitted to the ERT coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report represents the Team's findings. It is not meant to compete with private consultants by providing site plans or detailed solutions to development problems. The Team does not recommend what final action should be taken on a proposed project - all final decisions rest with the town. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to the proposed use, and also suggests considerations that should be of concern to the town. The results of this Team action are oriented toward the development of better environmental quality and the long term economics of land use.

The King's Mark RC&D Executive Council hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in the management planning for the Soundview, Summerfield and Wiacek properties.

If you require additional information please contact:

Elaine Sych, ERT Coordinator

CT ERT Program

P. O. Box 70

Haddam, CT 06438

Tel: (860) 345-3977 e-mail: connecticutert@aol.com

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# Introduction

## Introduction

The Shelton Conservation Commission has requested Environmental Review Team (ERT) assistance in reviewing the Open Space Parcels #80 (Soundview, Wiacek and Summerfield).

The project area consists of three abutting open space parcels totaling 66.43 acres identified as:

OS 80.01 “Summerfield” – 12.27 acres, wooded;

OS 80.02 “Wiacek” – 40.25 acres, mix of hayfields and woods

OS 80.3 “279 Soundview” – 13.91 acres, mix of fields and woods, with a dwelling and garage on Soundview Avenue.

The properties are centrally located in Shelton and abut Shelton High School. It is expected that portions of the Wiacek Property will be used for ball fields or some other municipal uses at some time in the future. The Paugussett Trail (a “blue blazed” trail) will be routed through the Wiacek parcel. The project site is bounded by Meadow Street, Soundview Avenue, and Constitution Blvd.

## Objectives of the ERT Study

The review is requested to assess the viability of agricultural lands on the city-owned open space, including several hayfields, and to identify area that are best suited to other possible uses such as ballfields. Areas of concern include: agricultural suitability, impacts to wetlands, viability of farmland, preservation of fields, invasive plants, potential sale of dwelling, and multi-use potential.

## The ERT Process

Through the efforts of the Shelton Conservation Commission this environmental review and report was prepared for the Town of Shelton.

This report provides an information base and a series of recommendations and guidelines which cover the topics requested by the town. Team members were able to review maps, plans and supporting documentation provided by the applicant.

The review process consisted of four phases:

1. Inventory of the site’s natural resources;
2. Assessment of these resources;
3. Identification of resource areas and review of plans; and
4. Presentation of education, management and land use guidelines.

The data collection phase involved both literature and field research. The field review was conducted Wednesday, October 14, 2009. The emphasis of the field review was on the exchange of ideas, concerns and recommendations. Being on site allowed Team members to verify information and to identify other resources.

Once Team members had assimilated an adequate data base, they were able to analyze and interpret their findings. Individual Team members then prepared and submitted their reports to the ERT coordinator for compilation into this final ERT report.



# Soundview / Wiacek Open Space Color Aerial Map



The Connecticut Environmental Review Team



This map was prepared by Amanda Fargo-Johnson for the Connecticut Environmental Review Team. This map is for educational use only. It contains no authoritative data. September 2009.

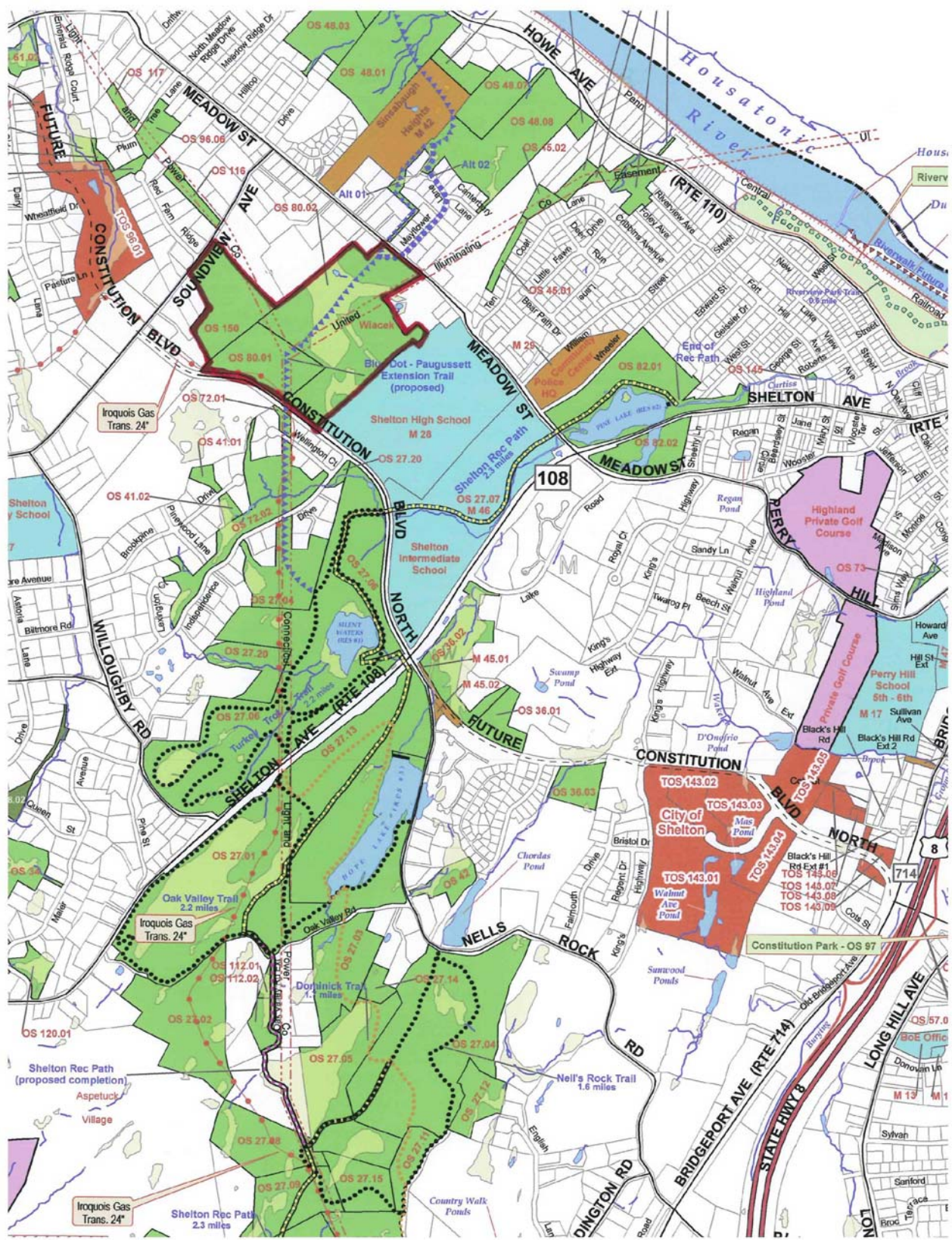


Shelton, CT



Approximate Property Boundaries









## Topography and Geology

The Soundview-Wiacek Open Space Parcel lies on the southeast side of a hill slope. Site topography generally consists of gentle slopes facing south, southeast and east to northeast. The northwest side of the property that fronts on Soundview Road is at the top of the hill and has an elevation of just greater than 560 feet above sea level. The southeasterly boundary of the parcel (which abuts the high school) has an elevation about 440' giving the parcel about 120 feet of relief. The relief is very gentle and the parcel is suitable for farm operations. (Fig. 1A, B. and D).



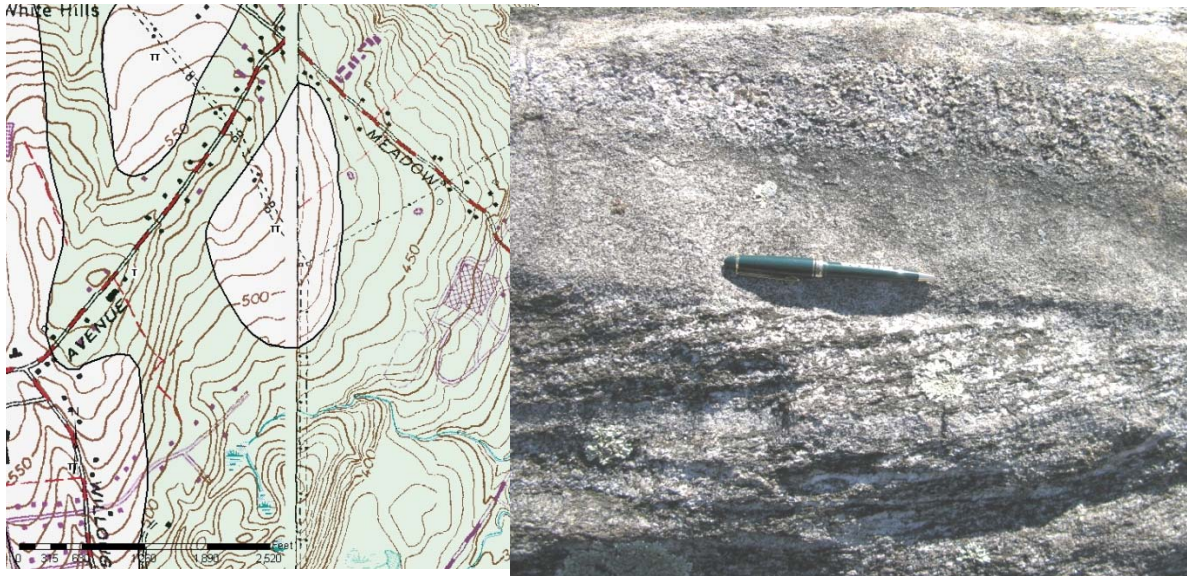
**Figure 1. A. Looking northwest along power line toward Soundview Avenue (behind trees at top of hill. Note rather gentle slopes at a spot where the slopes are as steep as they get on the parcel. B. Most of parcel has nearly level slopes suitable for farming. This image looks north-northeast on the Wiacek portion of the parcel. C. Soils are rocky and some of the rocks are large, as seen in D Pen is 5.5" in length. This image taken in the field behind house on Soundview Ave. D. Glacial boulders dug from soil in field to west of Meadow Street (Wiacek parcel).**

Indeed, that portion of the parcel that is not too wet is farmed. Approximately 30-40% of the parcel, however, appears to have wetland or seasonally wet soils.

The soils are glacial in origin and are relatively thick. They have developed on glacial till or thick glacial till (see Fig. 2A) and in places are very rocky. Some of the rocks are large enough to be confused with outcrop especially if they lie perchance with their foliation parallel to regional trends (NE-SW). No bedrock (ledge) outcrop was identified, however, during the ERT field visit.



Although bedrock does not crop out on the parcel, granitic gneiss underlies almost the entire parcel. It is a medium to coarse grained granofels gneiss (Figure 2B) composed of feldspar, quartz and variable amounts of mica. Some places may even contain enough mica to be a schist. It is part of the Trap Falls Formation (Rodgers, 1985).



A.

B.

**Figure 2. A. Quaternary Geologic map showing area mapped as thick till (greenish gray area labeled TT) which is generally greater than 15' thick and till that is not thick (greenish color and not labeled on this map). B. Glacial boulder of the Trap Falls Formation is composed of gray granofels gneiss. Almost entire parcel is underlain by rock of this variety. No outcrops were identified during our field observation. Pen is 5.5" in length.**

## References

Rodgers, John, 1985, Bedrock Geological Map of Connecticut. State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Nat'l. Resource Atlas Series

Stone, J.R., Schafer, J.P., London, E.H., DiGiacomo-Cohen, M.L., Lewis, R.S., and Thompson, W.B., 2005, Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin (1:125,000). U.S. Geol. Surv. Sci. Invest. Map # 2784.

# Soils

## **Prime Farmland Soils**

The majority of cleared land on the property is classified as either prime or important farmland. See attached maps, updated to reflect additional clearing. The prime farmlands on the property are mapped 45B, gently sloping Woodbridge soils. Soils classified as important farmlands are 45C, strongly sloping Woodbridge soils, and 2, Ridgebury soils. The unit of 45C is limited by slope, and the Ridgebury soils in map unit 2 are limited by wetness. Both Ridgebury and Woodbridge soils have dense till, a layer that restricts root penetration and water movement, within 20 to 40 inches of the soil surface. Woodbridge is moderately well drained, with a seasonal high water table within about 18" from late fall to early spring. This restricts some agricultural uses where early or late field operations are required. It is a good soil for hay and pasture, or warm season vegetables. Ridgebury soils, where present, are poorly drained and classify as wetlands. Areas of better drained soils may be included in the unit, particularly in the upper edges of the map units.

## **Other soils**

Most of the remaining soils are also Woodbridge and Ridgebury, but occupy areas that have not been cleared of stones in order to allow farming. Areas of map unit 3 consist of any or all of the following soils: the poorly drained Ridgebury and Leicester and the very poorly drained Whitman. These are wetland areas that are primarily in two depressions/drainage ways on the property. The ERT team walked through the unit of 46B and it includes additional areas of map unit 3, too small to be delineated at the scale of the soil mapping. Along Soundview Ave, a unit of 73C – Charlton-Chatfield crosses into the property. This unit has better drainage than the Woodbridge soils due to somewhat coarser textures and the absence of a dense till layer, but is very rocky and has the potential for bedrock close to the surface.

## **Stormwater Management**

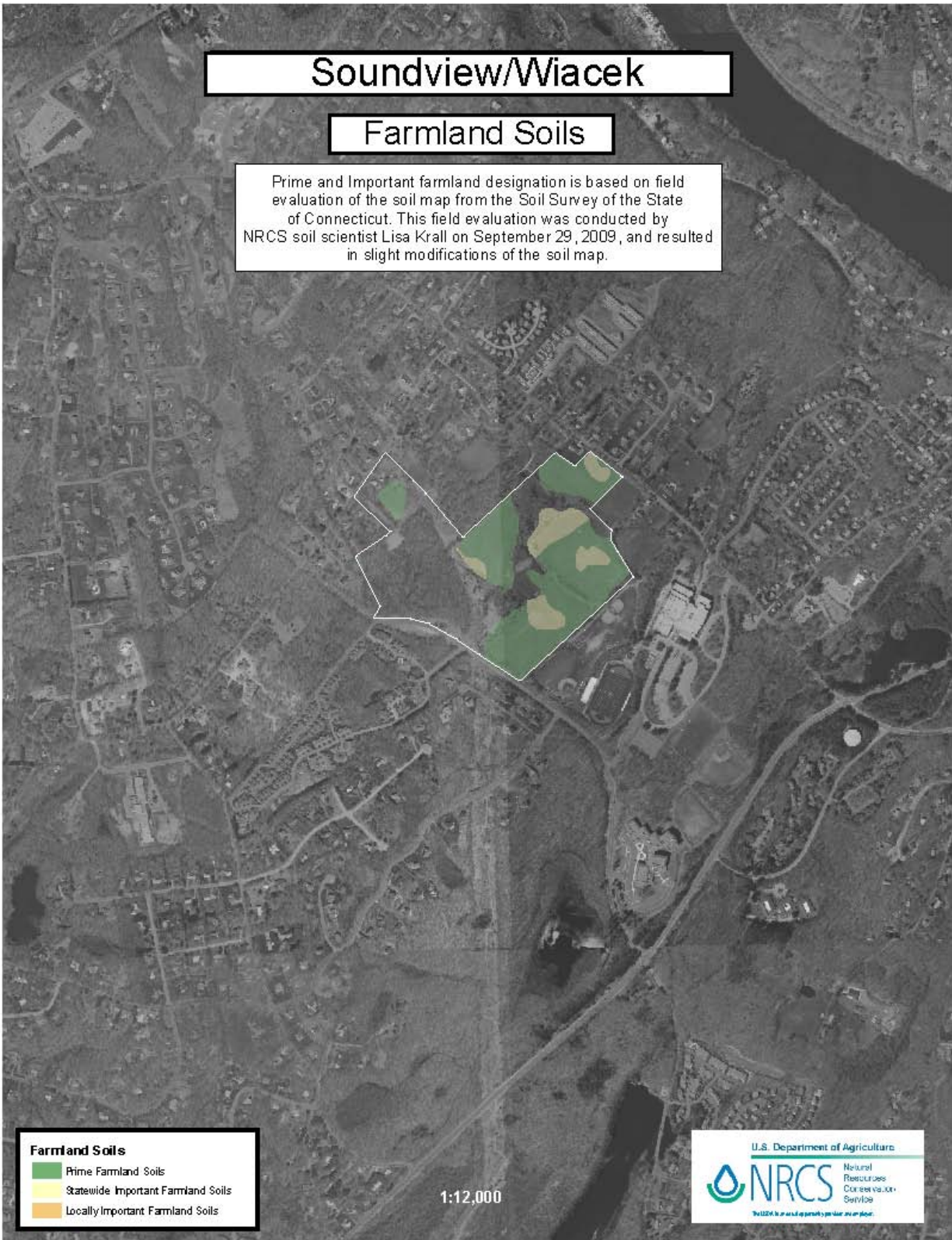
For the most part, the soils on the property are limited by restrictive layers and seasonal high water tables for practices that rely on infiltration of large amounts of stormwater runoff, such as infiltration trenches or pervious paving systems. The exception is the 73C Charlton-Chatfield unit along Soundview Ave. Level areas of the very deep to bedrock Charlton soils are suitable for pervious paving. Woodbridge soils are suitable for detention basins and small low impact development practices such as rain gardens and swales.



## **Water Quality Best Management Practices**

The wetlands on the property are connected to portions of the fields in areas mapped 2. Proper nutrient management on the fields will help protect these areas. A small pond is located in the northeast part of the Wiacek property. It shows signs of nutrient enrichment. It presents an opportunity for demonstration of best management practices such as erosion control, buffers, and proper installation and maintenance of trails and walkways for animals (pastured on the adjacent property) and people.

# Farmland Soils Map



# Soundview/Wiacek

## Soils





## Map Unit Description (Brief)

State of Connecticut

[Only those map units that have entries for the selected non-technical description categories are included in this report]

**Map Unit:** 2 - Ridgebury fine sandy loam

**Description Category:** SOI

*Ridgebury Fine Sandy Loam*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 40 to 50 inches (1016 to 1270 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 80 percent Ridgebury soils. 20 percent minor components.*

*Ridgebury soils*

*This component occurs on upland drainageway and depression landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from granite, schist, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 0 to 5 percent and the runoff class is very low. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 30 inches to densic material. The drainage class is poorly drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 2.6 inches (low) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 3 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 4w*

*Typical Profile:*

*0 to 5 inches; fine sandy loam  
5 to 14 inches; fine sandy loam  
14 to 21 inches; fine sandy loam  
21 to 60 inches; sandy loam*

## Map Unit Description (Brief)

State of Connecticut

**Map Unit:** 3 - Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony

**Description Category:** SOI

### *Ridgebury, Leicester And Whitman Soils, Extremely Stony*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 37 to 50 inches (940 to 1270 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 40 percent Ridgebury soils, 35 percent Leicester soils, 15 percent Whitman soils. 10 percent minor components.*

#### *Ridgebury soils*

*This component occurs on upland drainageway and depression landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from granite, schist, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 0 to 5 percent and the runoff class is very low. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 30 inches to densic material. The drainage class is poorly drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 2.5 inches (low) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 3 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 7s*

#### *Typical Profile:*

*0 to 1 inches; slightly decomposed plant material  
1 to 5 inches; fine sandy loam  
5 to 14 inches; fine sandy loam  
14 to 21 inches; fine sandy loam  
21 to 60 inches; sandy loam*

#### *Leicester soils*

*This component occurs on upland drainageway and depression landforms. The parent material consists of melt-out till derived from granite, schist, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 0 to 5 percent and the runoff class is very low. The depth to a restrictive feature is greater than 60 inches. The drainage class is poorly drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.57 in/hr (moderate), with about 7.4 inches (high) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 9 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 7s*

#### *Typical Profile:*

*0 to 1 inches; moderately decomposed plant material  
1 to 7 inches; fine sandy loam  
7 to 10 inches; fine sandy loam  
10 to 18 inches; fine sandy loam  
18 to 24 inches; fine sandy loam  
24 to 43 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
43 to 65 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam*

#### *Whitman soils*

*This component occurs on upland drainageway and depression landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from gneiss, schist, and granite. The slope ranges from 0 to 2 percent and the runoff class is very low. The depth to a restrictive feature is 12 to 20 inches to densic material. The drainage class is very poorly drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 1.9 inches (very low) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is occasional. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 0 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 7s*

#### *Typical Profile:*

*0 to 1 inches; slightly decomposed plant material  
1 to 9 inches; fine sandy loam  
9 to 16 inches; fine sandy loam  
16 to 22 inches; fine sandy loam  
22 to 60 inches; fine sandy loam*



## Map Unit Description (Brief)

State of Connecticut

**Map Unit:** 45B - Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes

**Description Category:** SOI

*Woodbridge Fine Sandy Loam, 3 To 8 Percent Slopes*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 37 to 49 inches (940 to 1244 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 80 percent Woodbridge soils. 20 percent minor components.*

*Woodbridge soils*

*This component occurs on upland drumlin and hill landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from schist, granite, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 3 to 8 percent and the runoff class is medium. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 40 inches to densic material. The drainage class is moderately well drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 3.9 inches (moderate) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 24 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 2w*

*Typical Profile:*

*0 to 7 inches; fine sandy loam  
7 to 18 inches; fine sandy loam  
18 to 26 inches; fine sandy loam  
26 to 30 inches; fine sandy loam  
30 to 43 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
43 to 65 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam*

**Map Unit:** 45C - Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes

**Description Category:** SOI

*Woodbridge Fine Sandy Loam, 8 To 15 Percent Slopes*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 37 to 49 inches (940 to 1244 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 80 percent Woodbridge soils. 20 percent minor components.*

*Woodbridge soils*

*This component occurs on upland drumlin and hill landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from schist, granite, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 8 to 15 percent and the runoff class is medium. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 40 inches to densic material. The drainage class is moderately well drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 3.9 inches (moderate) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 24 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 3e*

*Typical Profile:*

*0 to 7 inches; fine sandy loam  
7 to 18 inches; fine sandy loam  
18 to 26 inches; fine sandy loam  
26 to 30 inches; fine sandy loam  
30 to 43 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
43 to 65 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam*

## Map Unit Description (Brief)

State of Connecticut

**Map Unit:** 46B - Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony

**Description Category:** SOI

*Woodbridge Fine Sandy Loam, 2 To 8 Percent Slopes, Very Stony*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 37 to 49 inches (940 to 1244 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 80 percent Woodbridge soils. 20 percent minor components.*

*Woodbridge soils*

*This component occurs on upland drumlin and hill landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from schist, granite, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 2 to 8 percent and the runoff class is low. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 40 inches to densic material. The drainage class is moderately well drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 3.9 inches (moderate) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 24 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 6s*

*Typical Profile:*

*0 to 7 inches; fine sandy loam  
7 to 18 inches; fine sandy loam  
18 to 26 inches; fine sandy loam  
26 to 30 inches; fine sandy loam  
30 to 43 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
43 to 65 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam*

**Map Unit:** 46C - Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony

**Description Category:** SOI

*Woodbridge Fine Sandy Loam, 8 To 15 Percent Slopes, Very Stony*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 37 to 49 inches (940 to 1244 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 80 percent Woodbridge soils. 20 percent minor components.*

*Woodbridge soils*

*This component occurs on upland drumlin and hill landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from schist, granite, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 8 to 15 percent and the runoff class is medium. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 40 inches to densic material. The drainage class is moderately well drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 3.9 inches (moderate) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 24 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 6s*

*Typical Profile:*

*0 to 7 inches; fine sandy loam  
7 to 18 inches; fine sandy loam  
18 to 26 inches; fine sandy loam  
26 to 30 inches; fine sandy loam  
30 to 43 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
43 to 65 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam*

## Map Unit Description (Brief)

State of Connecticut

**Map Unit:** 47C - Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony

**Description Category:** SOI

### *Woodbridge Fine Sandy Loam, 2 To 15 Percent Slopes, Extremely Stony*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 37 to 49 inches (940 to 1244 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 80 percent Woodbridge soils, 20 percent minor components.*

### *Woodbridge soils*

*This component occurs on upland drumlin and hill landforms. The parent material consists of lodgement till derived from schist, granite, and gneiss. The slope ranges from 2 to 15 percent and the runoff class is medium. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 40 inches to densic material. The drainage class is moderately well drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.00 in/hr (very slow), with about 3.9 inches (moderate) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is about 24 inches. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 7s*

### *Typical Profile:*

*0 to 7 inches; fine sandy loam  
7 to 18 inches; fine sandy loam  
18 to 26 inches; fine sandy loam  
26 to 30 inches; fine sandy loam  
30 to 43 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
43 to 65 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam*

**Map Unit:** 73C - Charlton-Chatfield complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky

**Description Category:** SOI

### *Charlton-Chatfield Complex, 3 To 15 Percent Slopes, Very Rocky*

*This map unit is in the New England and Eastern New York Upland, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area. The mean annual precipitation is 37 to 49 inches (940 to 1244 millimeters) and the average annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F. (7 to 11 degrees C.) This map unit is 45 percent Charlton soils, 30 percent Chatfield soils, 25 percent minor components.*

### *Charlton soils*

*This component occurs on upland hill landforms. The parent material consists of melt-out till derived from granite, schist and gneiss. The slope ranges from 3 to 15 percent and the runoff class is low. The depth to a restrictive feature is greater than 60 inches. The drainage class is well drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.57 in/hr (moderate), with about 6.4 inches (high) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is greater than 6 feet. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 6s*

### *Typical Profile:*

*0 to 4 inches; fine sandy loam  
4 to 7 inches; fine sandy loam  
7 to 19 inches; fine sandy loam  
19 to 27 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
27 to 65 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam*

### *Chatfield soils*

*This component occurs on upland hill and ridge landforms. The parent material consists of melt-out till derived from gneiss, granite, and schist. The slope ranges from 3 to 15 percent and the runoff class is low. The depth to a restrictive feature is 20 to 40 inches to bedrock (lithic). The drainage class is well drained. The slowest permeability within 60 inches is about 0.57 in/hr (moderate), with about 3.3 inches (moderate) available water capacity. The weighted average shrink-swell potential in 10 to 60 inches is about 1.5 LEP (low). The flooding frequency for this component is none. The ponding hazard is none. The minimum depth to a seasonal water table, when present, is greater than 6 feet. The maximum calcium carbonate within 40 inches is none. The maximum amount of salinity in any layer is about 0 mmhos/cm (nonsaline). The Nonirrigated Land Capability Class is 6s*

### *Typical Profile:*

*0 to 1 inches; highly decomposed plant material  
1 to 6 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
6 to 15 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
15 to 29 inches; gravelly fine sandy loam  
29 to 36 inches; unweathered bedrock*

# Conservation District Review

This soil resources report applies to the 66-acre parcel referred to as the Soundview & Wiacek Open Space parcel, which is bordered by Soundview Avenue in the northwest corner, southwest by Constitution Blvd, northeast by Meadow Street and Shelton High School along its southeast border. The information in this report is based on the USDA's historical soils series descriptions and the new digital mapping unit descriptions as presented in the Soil Survey of Connecticut, remote survey interpretations plus field observations.

## Mapping Units - Exhibit #1

### Wetland Soils

- 1) **USDA Soil #2 - Map Unit Rd – Ridgebury.** This is a nearly level poorly drained soil in drainageways and depressions on glacial uplands. They formed in compact glacial till derived from gneiss and schist. Typically, they have friable loam or sandy loam surface layer and subsoil over a firm fine sandy loam or sandy loam dense till substratum. Ridgebury soils have a perched watertable within 1.5 feet of the surface much of the year.

**This soil has poor potential for development, which is limited by its high water table and its slowly permeable substratum.**

This soil constitutes 4.7% of the total soils in the Wiacek parcel. The majority of these exempted wetland soils are surrounded by stable prime farmland soils, which is maintained as a hay crop by a local farming entity for many decades. Any other proposed uses would have to be approved by the City's IWWC.

- 2) **USDA Soil #3 - Map Unit RN – Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams.** Consists of nearly level to gently sloping, poorly drained soils in drainageways and depressions on glacial uplands. Ridgebury soils are very deep and derived mainly from gneiss and schist. Typically, they have a friable loam or fine sandy loam surface layer and subsoil over a firm fine sandy loam or sandy loam dense till substratum. Ridgebury soils have a perched watertable within 1.5 feet of the surface much of the year.

This soil constitutes 21.6% or 15.7-acres of the total soils in the Wiacek parcel, which are limited to the forested areas of the Summerfield parcel along Constitution Blvd and treed buffers between the fields of the Wiacek piece.



## Observation

**Wetlands** - Minor trails criss-cross these wetlands in several areas, which have given rise to disturbances from traffic and siltation from the erosion of widening and denuded trails.

**Potential Vernal Pools** – Preliminary investigation of the Summerfield and Soundview parcels forested areas provide enough information to warrant the need for additional field studies to qualify and quantify potential vernal pools on site. Restricting access or buffering distances to limit their disturbance and preserve the viability of these critical areas should be considered.

## Non-Wetland Soils

### 3) USDA Soil #45A - Map Unit WxA – Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes.

This nearly level, moderately well drained soil is on the top of drumlins and in slight depressions on hill and ridges of glacial uplands. Woodbridge soils are very deep, moderately well drained soils that formed in compact glacial till, derived mainly from gneiss and schist. Typically, they have a friable fine sandy loam or loam surface layer and subsoil over a firm fine sandy loam or sandy loam dense till substratum. Woodbridge soils have a perched seasonal watertable at 1.5 to 2.5 feet from late fall to early spring.

Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and slow in the substratum. Runoff is slow. This soil has fair potential for development. **It is limited mainly by the seasonally high watertable and its slowly permeable substratum.** This soil is subject to ponding at times.

### 4) USDA Soil #46B - Map Unit WxB – Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes.

#### USDA Soil #46C - Map Unit WxC – Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes.

This gently sloping, moderately well drained soil is on the top of drumlins and in slight depressions and at the base of drumlins on glacial uplands. Woodbridge soils are very deep, moderately well drained soils that formed in compact glacial till, derived mainly from gneiss and schist. The substratum, described to a depth of 60 inches, is olive, mottled, very firm gravelly fine sandy loam. From late fall to early spring, Woodbridge soils have a watertable at a depth of 1.5 to 2.5 feet.

Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and slow in the substratum. Runoff is medium. This soil has **fair potential** for development. **It is limited mainly by the high watertable and its slowly permeable substratum.**

The Steeper “C” slope designation relative to the Woodbridge soil prompts greater consideration of land uses and disturbance of these soils.

## Note

- Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and slow in the substratum. Runoff is medium. This soil has fair potential for development. **It is limited mainly by the high watertable and its slowly permeable substratum.**



- **Erosion hazard is severe** and requires enhanced conservation measures are needed to control runoff, erosion and sedimentation.
- Agricultural uses of these areas should be maintained as a hay crop due to their HEL (Highly Erodible Land) determination.
- The Woodbridge soils are the sites major soil type, which is approximately 46-acres in size. See Exhibit #1 for percentages.

6) **USDA Soil #73C - CrC – Charlton-Hollis soil 3 to 15 percent slopes.**

This complex consists of well-drained soils located on uplands where the relief is affected by underlying bedrock. The Charlton component has moderate or moderately rapid permeability. Runoff is medium to rapid. The Hollis component has moderate to moderately rapid permeability above the bedrock.

This soil constitutes 7.6% of the total soils and the majority of this soil is located on the Soundview parcel, which is mainly limited by its steeper slopes. This complex has **fair to poor potential** for community development. **The Charlton component has fair potential** for development and the **Hollis has poor potential** for development due to its shallowness to bedrock.

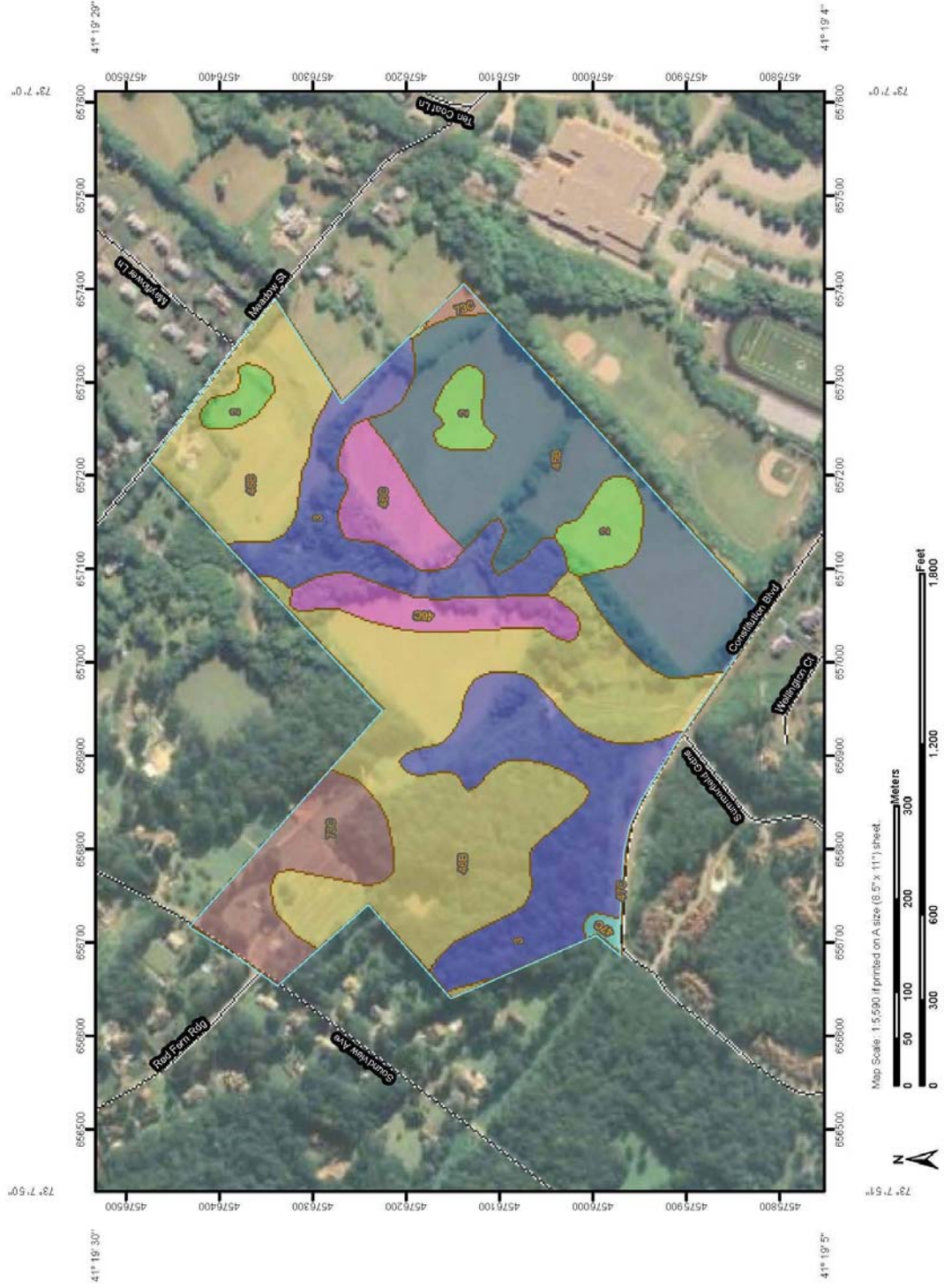
Intensive enhanced conservation measures such as temporary vegetation and siltation basins are frequently needed to prevent excessive runoff, erosion and siltation.

### Concerns

**The included Paxton and Hollis soils are even less suitable for development:**

- Paxton soils have slow permeability in the substratum. A dense lense of Paxton soils within the Charlton soil can cause down slope seeps and affect the structural integrity of proposed service infrastructures and dwellings.
- Hollis soils are limited by their shallowness to bedrock, which is approx. 10 to 20 inches in depth.
- The fine particulates of schist and gneiss associated with these soils stay in suspension for extended periods. Limiting land disturbances atop of these soils, which requires the rerouting of trails and limiting public access to these steeper areas, can avoid contamination from siltation.

Map Unit Name—State of Connecticut



Web Soil Survey  
National Cooperative Soil Survey

## MAP LEGEND

 Area of Interest (AOI)	 Oceans
 Soil Map Units	 Streams and Canals
<b>Soil Ratings</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
 Charlton-Chaffield complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	 Rails
 Ridgebury fine sandy loam	 Interstate Highways
 Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	 US Routes
 Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	 Major Roads
 Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	 Local Roads
 Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	
 Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	
 Not rated or not available	
<b>Political Features</b>	
 Cities	

## MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:5,590 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:12,000. Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 18N NAD83

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

Soil Survey Area: State of Connecticut  
 Survey Area Data: Version 6, Mar 22, 2007

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 8/14/2006

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



## Map Unit Name

Map Unit Name— Summary by Map Unit — State of Connecticut				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	A cres in AOI	Percent of AOI
2	Ridgebury fine sandy loam	Ridgebury fine sandy loam	3.4	4.9%
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	15.4	22.0%
45B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	14.8	21.0%
46B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	25.3	36.1%
46C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	5.6	7.9%
47C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	0.3	0.4%
73C	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	5.3	7.6%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>70.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Description

A soil map unit is a collection of soil areas or nonsoil areas (miscellaneous areas) delineated in a soil survey. Each map unit is given a name that uniquely identifies the unit in a particular soil survey area.

### Rating Options

*Aggregation Method:* No Aggregation Necessary

*Tie-break Rule:* Lower



**Land Use Planning - Agricultural Soils Resources -  
Exhibit #2  
Prime Farmland & Farmland of Statewide Importance**

The continued sound agricultural use of this land adequately demonstrates the need to maintain the relationship of the City with good stewards of the land, which has mutually benefited each entity involved. The sustainability of local agriculture, preservation and protection of our remaining prime farmland and farmlands of statewide importance should be a high priority to all of Connecticut's Cities and Townships.

**Restore Agricultural Field** – Located to the south of Meadow Street, the soil stockpiles and boulders in the field have been left unused and unattended, which has restricted use and reduced the productivity of the hay crop. Lying fallow this area has given rise to the introduction of pioneer invasive species, which needs to be addressed before they can spread to adjacent fields.

**Recommendation**

- Remove the boulders exposed in the excavation of these soils.
- Restore the disturbed field by leveling approximately 3,600 cubic yards of stockpiled soil. Reseed with similar mixture used in adjoining fields.
- Soil Test effected area and re-establish the appropriate level of nutrients to obtain optimum productivity of the hay field.

**Environmental Education**

This site also offers a wide array of science based educational opportunities from the study of aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, soil chemistry, forestry management, and the enhancement of a diverse habitat base that will serve as a sanctuary to the wildlife.

Consideration should be given to utilizing the farm house and garage as a agricultural museum, meeting / storage place, classroom, laboratory or staging areas for outdoor living classrooms throughout the property. This would expand and enhance all grade level science based curriculums in the Shelton school system, its citizenry and other environmental groups associated with the Township.

CT DEP can facilitate the development or enhancement of existing environmental programs in the City's school system through Project Wet and Project Wild.

**Trails**

Establish a trail system guided by the protection and preservation of critical habitats, promotes the minimization land disturbance, which ultimately reduces potential impacts from erosion and siltation of sensitive habitats from recreation activities. Consideration should be given to limiting access to and isolating areas for more intense recreational uses such as mountain biking, which have a greater ability to disturb stable, vegetated ground cover, which ultimately leads to soil detachment, transport into sensitive areas.



## **Public / Utility Access**

Crop losses due to the creation of unofficial trails by the public and utility services have resulted in the past. Mapping of trails, limiting seasonal access and providing narrow grassed perimeters around the field edges should be considered. These nominal measures will eliminate agricultural crop and economic losses plus reduce disturbances of fauna during nesting periods.

Guidance and assistance on the development and maintenance of trail systems can be secured through the CT Parks Association in Middlefield, CT.

## **Community Gardens or Community Supported Agriculture**

Examples of similar town projects such as this exist in Madison at Bauer Farm ([www.madisonct.org/bauerpark.html](http://www.madisonct.org/bauerpark.html)) and Boulder Knoll Farm in Cheshire ([www.boulderknollfarm.com](http://www.boulderknollfarm.com)). Uses range from commercial and organic community gardening to the creation of a community supported agriculture project on a 2-acre parcel. These townships also realized that there is a need to maintain public awareness of locally grown products and created an agricultural museum dedicated to preserving their diminishing farming heritage. It would be prudent for the City of Shelton to observe the components of these municipal projects and see first hand what aspects of Madison and Cheshire's land use management plan might work for the City of Shelton and its Citizens. (ERT reports were completed for both the Bauer Farm and Boulder Knoll and may be found on our website – [www.ctert.org](http://www.ctert.org)).

## **Forestry Management / Invasive Plant Control**

### **Observation**

The Summerfield and Soundview parcels would benefit from a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of its forested areas and developing an invasive plant control program. This effort should be coupled with the utility company's management practices of the right-of-way. Contacts as follow:

- **Forestry** – CT DEP, Division Of Forestry, Robert S. Rocks, Eastern District Headquarters,  
209 Hebron Road, Marlborough, CT 06447, Tel # 860-295-9523.
- **Invasive Plants** – CT Invasive Plant Working Group, Donna Ellis at 860-486-6448 or [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg).

### **Federal Administered Programs**

- **WHIP = Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program:** Municipalities and Private Landowners are eligible to participate in a cost-share program for cities and towns in implementing practices to maintain or establish wildlife habitats. These practices include invasive plant control, early successional woodlands, riparian areas; state identified imperiled habitats plus streams and rivers.

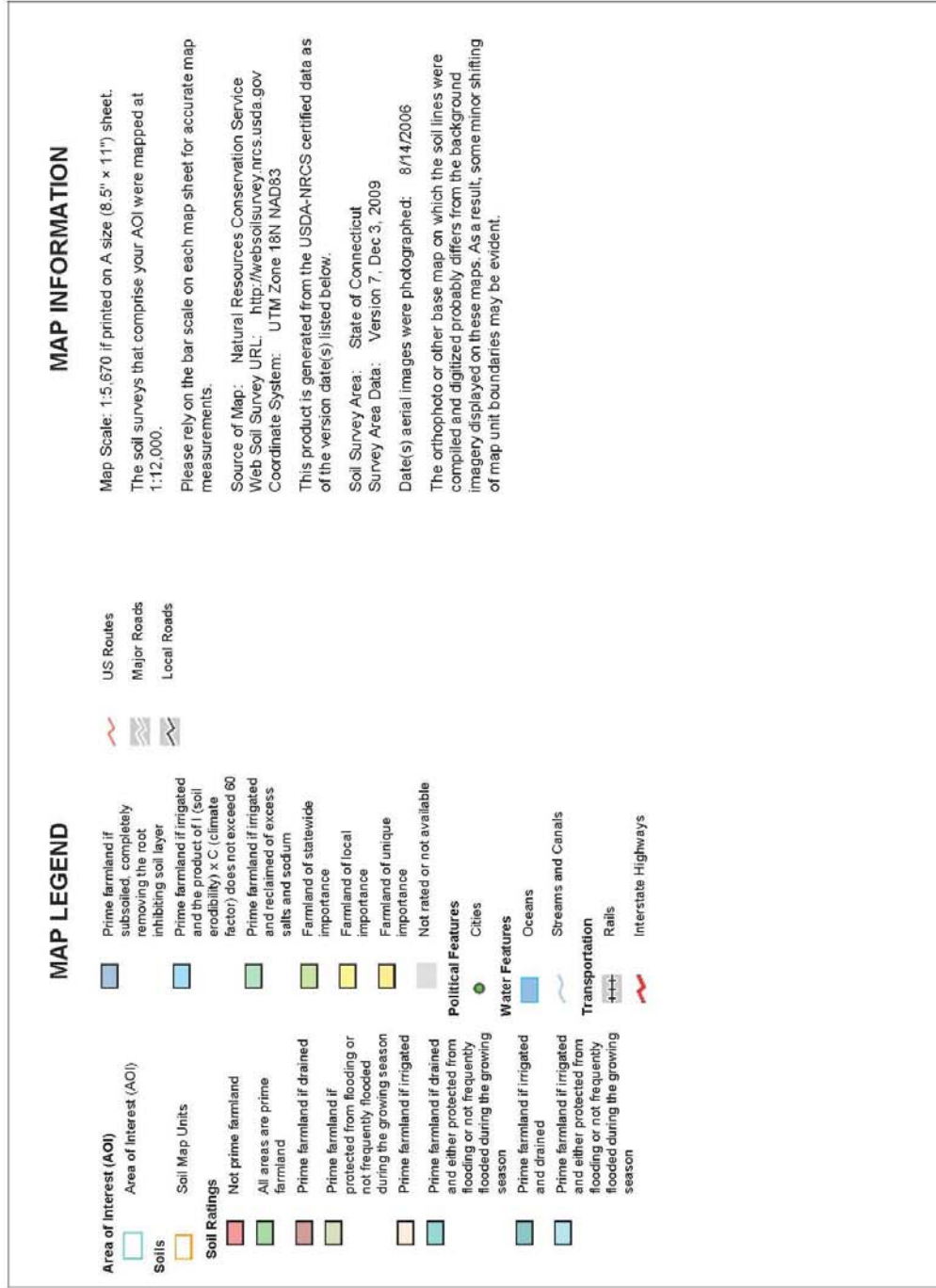
## **Land Use Planning Opportunities**

Develop a long-term natural resource conservation/forest management plan, which encompasses goals and objectives for maintaining the current farming stewardship, increasing and maintaining biodiversity, integrates year round passive recreational uses that can provide a platform for education that showcases and preserves its natural resources. Provide controlled public access for open space areas that respect the agricultural interests and its sustainability.

Farmland Classification—State of Connecticut







## Farmland Classification

Farmland Classification— Summary by Map Unit — State of Connecticut				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
2	Ridgebury fine sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance	3.4	4.7%
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	Not prime farmland	15.7	21.6%
45B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	15.1	20.7%
46B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland	26.4	36.3%
46C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland	5.6	7.6%
47C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	Not prime farmland	0.4	0.6%
73C	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	Not prime farmland	6.1	8.4%
308	Udorthents, smoothed	Not prime farmland	0.0	0.0%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>72.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

### Rating Options

*Aggregation Method:* No Aggregation Necessary

*Tie-break Rule:* Lower

# Landscape Ecology Review

## Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are a noticeable component of the vegetation. In a walk through the property on October 14, 2009, the following invasive plants were observed. (The list below does not represent a complete inventory of invasive plants on the property.)

### Perennials

- Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)– in the fill by Constitution Blvd.



### Vines

- Oriental (Asiatic) Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) – in fencerows and under powerlines



- Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) – in fence rows and under powerlines





## Shrubs

- Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) – thick in the forest understory between Summerfield Gardens and the open field on the Soundview tract.



- Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) – scattered under powerlines and in fencerows



Autumn-Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) – scattered under powerlines and in fencerows



- Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) – observed near powerline Towers on Soundview tract; this shrub may have been overlooked elsewhere



- Privet (*Ligustrum* sp.) – Soundview Tract (did not notice a lot of this one)





In addition to the above-mentioned plants that are on the official 2004 Connecticut list of Invasive and Potentially Invasive Plants, some agricultural weeds also were observed.

- Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*) – in field behind Soundview Tract house and in the hayfields. This species has leaves that are somewhat oakleaf-shaped and prickles on stems and backs of leaves. Its fruits, which resemble yellow cherry tomatoes, get wrinkled and shriveled in late fall.



- Wild Madder, a species of Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo* – identification based on non-flowering specimens) – particularly noticed in the hayfield that borders the ditch, but not Constitution Blvd.



- Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) – particularly where powerline meets Constitution Blvd.



There also were native shrubs scattered throughout the fencerows, under the powerlines and in forests.

Evidence of deer browsing was observed and it was reported that deer populations are high in Shelton.

### **Recommendations for Management of Invasives and Agricultural Weeds**

1. Attempt to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed before it spreads. This is a difficult species to remove and will probably require multiple treatments as well as subsequent monitoring for seedlings and re-sprouts for several years after apparent control.
2. Monitor the size and density of the infestation of the Mugwort by Constitution Blvd in order to determine if it is spreading out or getting more dense. Mugwort is not on the official list of invasive and potentially invasive plants in Connecticut because it is not frequently reported as a problem in "minimally managed" areas. However, it is known for being a problem in gardens where it is difficult to control by hand because it is difficult to get all the roots out. It also is relatively tolerant of herbicides. With the disturbed soils in the power line area, Mugwort may flourish. Where it flourishes, it grows up to five feet tall and its dense cover shades out other plants. (In turn, under the shade of taller plants, it does not grow well.) If it appears that it is going to compete with desired vegetation, then control should be started immediately as it is difficult to control where well-established. (Perhaps volunteers could have monthly pulling parties?) Although not typically found in

natural areas, Mugwort may be spread by site management practices that result in root fragments being moved.

3. In general, without a lot of effort and expense, there is low potential for creating and maintaining an invasives-free shrubland under the powerlines for two reasons:
  - a. The site has well-established invasives and presumably a large seedbank of invasive seeds in the soil meaning that following control efforts, resprouting and new seedlings would be expected. (This is not insurmountable.)
  - b. Deer tend to favor browsing native shrubs over invasive ones and with the high deer population, establishment of native shrubs would be difficult without fencing.
  
4. Although the species composition of the powerline corridor is not ideal (due to the presence of so many invasive plants), open, shrubby habitat is uncommon in Connecticut. Even an invasives-infested site has wildlife value (cover and food). This site in particular also has many natives present.
  - a. Spot-control of invasives impinging onto individual native shrubs might be done.
  - b. Conversion of the powerline to grassland habitat is **not** recommended.
  
5. Due to shady conditions and the expectation that the reported large deer population would not be conducive to regeneration of native shrubs in the forest understory, clearing of the Japanese Barberry understory in the woods between Constitution Blvd and the Soundview Tract is generally not recommended unless the area is to be converted to agriculture.
  - a. Should someone wish to learn how to control Barberry with a flame weeder (which boils the sap rather than burning the leaves), this would be a good demonstration site as flame weeders work well on Japanese Barberry.
  
6. The forested area with Pin Oak was relatively free of invasive plants. Here, time on invasive plant control would be well spent. Pockets of shade-tolerant, wet soil-tolerant native shrubs might be planted and fenced to provide some additional diversity.
  
7. The forested edges by the open fields could be treated by a long-term plan of slow removal of invasives beginning with removal of plants that are impinging on adjacent natives. Where empty space is left, natives could be planted and protected with fencing. One post plus livestock wire can be used to encircle a small space. Heavy duty plastic deer fencing can be used around larger areas (with multiple posts). Note that fences may provide support for unwanted vines. The point of the slow removal process would be to retain the wildlife cover currently provided by invasive plants at the edge while the natives grow to a useful size.

### **Prevention of New Invasive Species Introductions**

- A. Monitor the paths/trails for the presence of highly invasive species whose seeds are easily carried by hikers and deer. (Note that shrub and vine seeds tend to be spread by birds.) In particular, two species (not noted on the property) are profuse seeders that are spread very easily down trails. Learn to identify and watch for these two species:
  - Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
  - Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
    - a. Where found, these plants should be removed and the sites monitored to ensure that no new seedlings emerge.

**B.** Always keep an eye out for Mile-a-minute Vine (*Persicaria perfoliata* – formerly called *Polygonum perfoliatum*), a plant relatively new to Connecticut that has been found in the Town of Monroe.

-- report any sightings of Mile-a-minute Vine to [Donna.Ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:Donna.Ellis@uconn.edu) or <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/mam/>

## **Invasive Species Identification**

Downloadable invasive species identification sheets

1. English versions <http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/invas-factsheets.html>
2. Spanish/English <http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/invas-factsheets-spanish.html>

## The Natural Diversity Data Base

The Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files for the project site have been reviewed. According to our information, there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species at the site in question.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Environmental and Geographic Information Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.



## Archaeological and Cultural Resource Review

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review suggests that both project areas possess a moderate sensitivity for archaeological resources. No archaeological work is warranted at the Soundview Property since its use is passive, however, should ball field landscaping be proposed for the Wiacek Property, an archaeological survey may be warranted.

In addition, it appears that the house on the Soundview Parcel may be a Sears pre-fab house. The SHPO (based on photos submitted) believe that architecturally the house was identical to other known Sears prefab houses in Connecticut. The house has architectural integrity and appears eligible for the State Register of Historic Places. The Town of Shelton should evaluate adaptive use and/or lease/sale with a preservation covenant.



The OSA and SHPO offices recommend archaeological studies of the Soundview project area should proposals for athletic fields commence pursuant to the current state-of-the-art standards outlined in the SHPO's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

Both offices are available to provide technical assistance in the identification and evaluation of cultural resources on the parcels under consideration.

## Recreation Planner Review

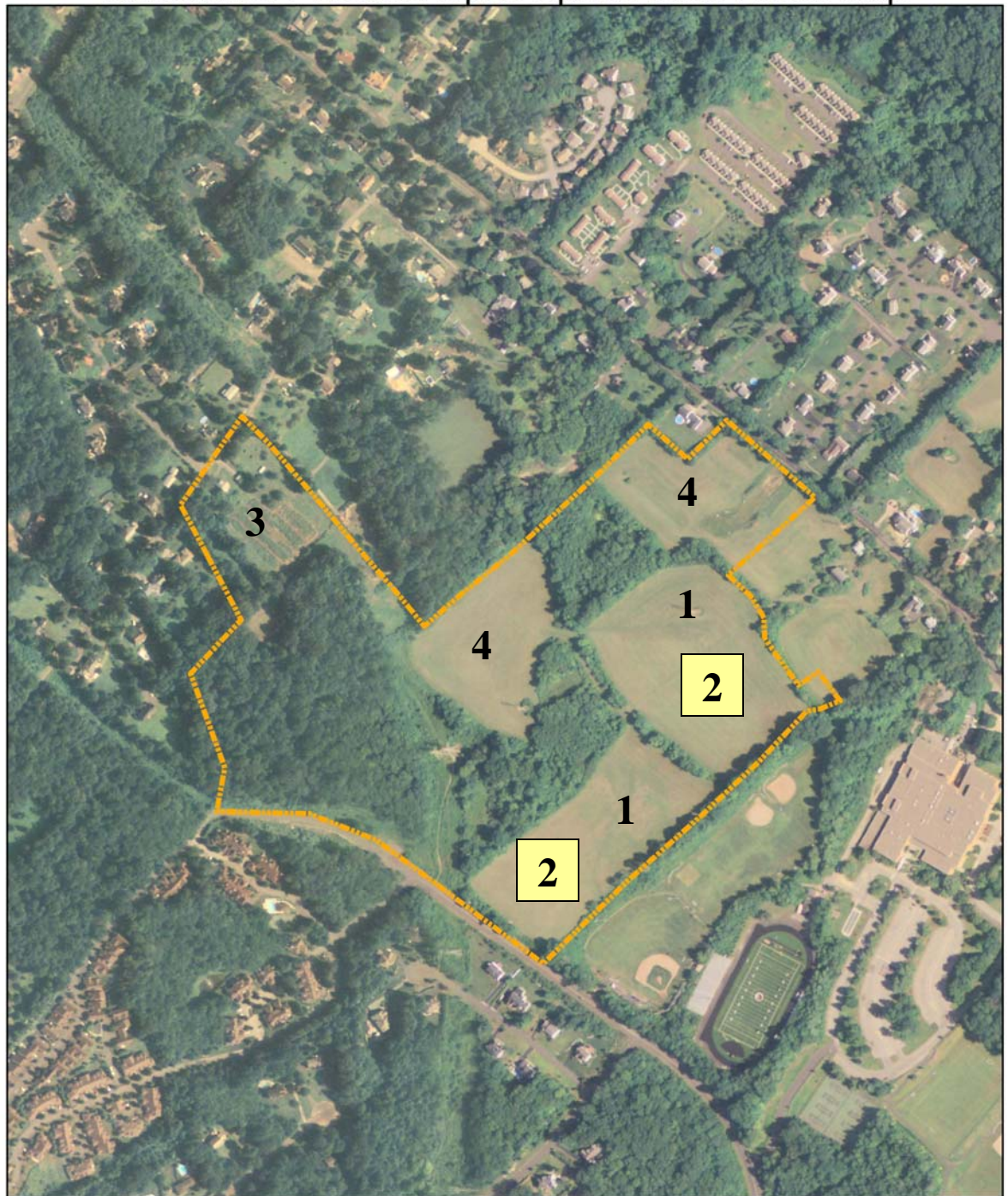
The following comments are based on map and soils information, not a field review.

Much of the property consists of wooded upland on generally stony till soils and the best management of such areas typically is as passive open space including trail uses.

However, several special considerations will be involved including:

1. Proximity to the high school and possible needs for additional ballfields. Although material available to review does not include an assessment of present and likely future needs for such facilities, the fields immediately adjacent to the high school (#1 on the following map) are a likely location for such development with the caveat that the portion containing Ridgeway soil will pose drainage issues. On the other hand, development of ballfields here would conflict with consideration #2 below.
2. The area discussed in #1 above contains the best agricultural soil in Open Space Area #80 (see #2 on the following map). Development of ball fields here would conflict with preservation of Prime and additional Statewide Important Farmland soils. The soils in question are classified largely as land capability Class II, plus two smaller areas of Class III land, both of which can be cultivated regularly. Thus Shelton may have to establish land use priorities here based on community goals and needs.
3. Tract #80.3/ 279 Soundview, contains a house, mandating a management decision whether removal, leasing or active civic use. Perhaps the field adjoining the house could be used for community gardens #3 on the following map.
4. Two other fields (#4 on following map) are currently used as hay field, although they are not in close proximity to the high school for possible ball field development, continued hay management may be the best option in terms of production and aesthetics.
5. The proposed extension of the Paugusset Trail through this property has the conceptual support of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) and would be a desirable extension of the Blue Trial Hiking system.

# Soundview / Wiacek Open Space Color Aerial Map



The Connecticut Environmental Review Team



This map was prepared by Amanda Fargo-Johnson for the Connecticut Environmental Review Team. This map is for educational use only. It contains no authoritative data. September 2009.



Approximate Property Boundaries

Shelton, CT





## **About the Team**

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of environmental professionals drawn together from a variety of federal, state and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, soil scientists, foresters, climatologists and landscape architects, recreational specialists, engineers and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the aegis of the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area - an 83 town area serving western Connecticut.

As a public service activity, the Team is available to serve towns within the King's Mark RC&D Area - *free of charge*.

### **Purpose of the Environmental Review Team**

The Environmental Review Team is available to assist towns in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities or natural resource inventories for critical areas. For example, the ERT has been involved in the review of a wide range of significant land use activities including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrial developments and recreation/open space projects.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

### **Requesting an Environmental Review**

Environmental reviews may be requested by the chief elected official of a municipality or the chairman of an administrative agency such as planning and zoning, conservation or inland wetlands. Environmental Review Request Forms are available at your local Conservation District and through the King's Mark ERT Coordinator. This request form must include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the landowner / developer allowing the Team to enter the property for the purposes of a review and a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the Team members should investigate. When this request is reviewed by the local Conservation District and approved by the King's Mark RC&D Executive Council, the Team will undertake the review. At present, the ERT can undertake approximately two reviews per month depending on scheduling and Team member availability.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact the King's Mark ERT Coordinator, Connecticut Environmental Review Team, [Connecticutert@aol.com](mailto:Connecticutert@aol.com), P.O. Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438. The telephone number is 860-345-3977. [www.ctert.org](http://www.ctert.org)