



Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Study Report and Environmental Assessment *November 2011*





Photo: Wanda Colman

Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study

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Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Northeast Region
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-3572
Tel: 617-223-5191

National Park Service
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street, 3FL
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Tel: 215-597-6482

For more information and color version visit <http://www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org> or contact:

Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee

C/o FRWA
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
860 658 4442

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Chuck Barscz, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Division Chief, National Park Service

Jamie Fosburgh, Northeast Region Rivers Program, New England Team Leader, National Park Service

Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Wild and Scenic Study Coordinator

Jeff Bolton, FRWA GIS Specialist

Linda Goldsmith Design, Harwinton, CT, Graphic Design



Photo: Tom Cameron

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Summary—Principal Findings

Eligibility

The Wild and Scenic River Study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook concludes that the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are eligible for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System based on their free-flowing condition and the presence of one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values. The river segment that includes the Rainbow Dam and reservoir is found ineligible for designation. The Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) described in this report are **Geology, Water Quality, Biological Diversity, Cultural Landscape, and Recreation**.

Classification

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides for three possible classifications of eligible river segments: wild, scenic, and recreational. The criteria distinguishing these classifications are based on the degree of human modification of the river and its adjacent shorelines. Based upon the applicable criteria, National Park Service (NPS) has assigned a preliminary classification of “**recreational**” to the segments of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook that have been found eligible for designation.

Suitability

The Study concludes that approximately 37 miles of the lower Farmington River and 26.4 miles of the Salmon Brook are currently eligible and suitable for designation.

- Analysis of existing local, state, federal, and non-regulatory protections applicable to the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are found to adequately protect the rivers consistent with the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan developed as a part of the Study provides an appropriate and effective management framework for the long-term management and protection of the watercourses.
- Based upon the official record of endorsement from local governing bodies, citizens, local, and regional

non-governmental organizations, as well as an endorsement from the Connecticut General Assembly and Office of the Governor, it is concluded that there is substantial support for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act based on the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers model.

- A 2.9 mile segment of the Lower Farmington River including the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams is found presently **unsuitable** for designation based on active pursuit of an FERC license for hydropower generation by the Towns of Canton, Burlington, and Avon.

Alternatives Considered

This report evaluates two Wild and Scenic River designation alternatives in addition to the ‘no action’ **Alternative A**.

Alternative B: Full Designation. This alternative would designate all segments of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook found to meet the criteria for eligibility and suitability. The total designation length under this alternative is approximately 63.4 miles. This alternative is identified as the environmentally preferable alternative based on providing the maximum protection to free-flowing river values consistent with the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and based on the documented support of key local, non-governmental, and state river management stakeholders.

Alternative C: Partial Designation. This alternative would exclude from designation a 2.2 mile segment of the Lower Farmington River below the Rainbow Dam in Windsor to allow for potential future hydroelectric development in this area. This alternative would also exclude a river segment above the Rainbow Dam to allow for potential future flashboard alterations. The total designation length under this alternative is approximately 61 miles. This alternative is included for consideration based upon plans of the Stanley Black & Decker Company to consider potential hydroelectric development and alterations to flashboards at some point in the future.

Additional Study Findings

Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Management Plan

Development of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Management Plan (Management Plan or Plan) has been one of the primary tasks of the Wild and Scenic Study Committee (Study Committee or Committee). The Management Plan is the product of an extensive collaborative effort between the Study Committee, local citizens, land use commissioners, and elected officials. The Management Plan contains the vision and strategy for protecting and enhancing the watercourses and the associated outstanding resources.

If the candidate rivers are designated, the Management Plan would serve as the comprehensive river management plan required under Section 3(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). It functions as a companion document to this Study Report. If the rivers are not added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Management Plan could still serve to provide state and local protection to these waterways if local stakeholders carry out the recommendations.

Support for Designation

Between January 2009 and August 2010 the governing bodies of all ten communities abutting the Study area voted to endorse the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic designation and support the implementation of the Management Plan if Wild and scenic designation takes place. In

addition, many of the land use commissions and boards from these communities voted to endorse and support as a part of the community review process leading up to official town votes. Local and regional organizations have provided support letters as well. The Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation and the Governor signed the bill that supports the Wild and Scenic designation and commits the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to participate as a partner in the implementation of the Management Plan if Wild and Scenic designation occurs.

Partnership Wild and Scenic River Designation

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study was conducted based on the established model of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, that includes both the upper Farmington River and Eightmile River in Connecticut. It is likewise important that the NPS supports passage of legislation to implement a Wild and Scenic River designation that follows the Partnership Wild and Scenic River legislative model based on the findings of this Study and the record of public support for designation, including: prohibition on federal condemnation of lands; establishment of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan as the Comprehensive Plan required by Section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic River Act.

Governor Jodi Rell signs State of Connecticut Wild and Scenic Legislation into law

Photo: Don Rieger



Chapter 1: Background

This chapter provides an introduction to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Study. It includes a review of the project’s history, the study strategy and process, the principal participants, and the major study products and accomplishments.

1.A. Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

The National Wild and Scenic River System was established by Congress in 1968 to protect certain outstanding rivers from the harmful effects of new federal projects such as dams and hydroelectric facilities. Since then 203 rivers or river segments totaling over 11,000 miles have been protected nationwide. To be considered “Wild and Scenic” a river must be free-flowing and have at least one river-related outstanding natural, cultural, or recreational resource value. Section 1(b) of the Act states:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

There are only eight Wild and Scenic River segments located in New England: the upper Farmington and Eightmile in Connecticut; the Allagash in Maine; the Wildcat and Lamprey in New Hampshire; and the Westfield, Sudbury-Assabet-Concord, and Taunton in Massachusetts. One additional study is ongoing in New England of the Missisquoi River in Vermont.

Each river designated into the national system receives permanent protection from federally licensed or assisted dams, diversions, channelization or other water projects that would have a direct and adverse effect on its free-flowing condition, water quality, and Outstandingly Remarkable resources, or, for projects outside the designated segments, that would invade the segments or unreasonably diminish the segment’s fish, wildlife, scenic, or recreational resources. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act explicitly prohibits any new hydropower dam and related facilities licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on or directly affecting a designated river segment. The determination of a proposed federally assisted water resource project’s or FERC-licensed hydropower project’s potential impacts on the river’s “outstandingly remarkable” values, water quality, and free-flowing condition is made by the federal river administering agency, in this case the National Park Service.

Studies under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) can bring additional local benefits such as the preparation of an advisory Management Plan, research studies, and cooperation among numerous river stakeholders. River designation may bring prestige and recognition to the region and can boost the local economy through tourism, possible funding through the National Park Service, matching grants, in-kind support, and volunteer assistance.

Before a river can be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, it must be found both *eligible* and *suitable*. To be eligible, the river must be 1) free-flowing and 2) possess at least one river-related Outstandingly Remarkable Value such as exceptional scenery, fisheries, and wildlife, water quality, or cultural resources. The suitability determination is based on factors such as public support for designation versus conflicting river uses (e.g., hydropower development), evidence of adequate existing resource protection,

River designation may bring prestige and recognition to the region and can boost the local economy through tourism...

Farmington River angler
Photo: Wanda Colman



and lasting protection measures such as are documented in the Management Plan. Local residents, leaders, and organizations must show strong support of their intent to participate in the long-term protection of the river. The *eligibility* and *suitability* analyses are presented in the chapters that follow.

1.B. Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Study History and Methods

History

In 1994, the upper 14 miles of the Farmington River in Connecticut were designated a Wild and Scenic River. As the passing years proved this designation a success in terms of facilitating river protection through a partnership between residents and the state, local, and federal governments, interest arose in securing Wild and Scenic designation for the downstream segment of the river as well. The lower reach of the Farmington River is rich in recreational, historical, and biological values and has an important tributary, the Salmon Brook, noted to be among the state's most significant coldwater resources. Because of these factors, local interest, led by the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), developed to pursue congressional authorization for a Wild and Scenic Study of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Former Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and former Senator Chris Dodd were instrumental in securing congressional authorization for the study. The Study bill was passed by Congress at the end of 2006. On November 27, 2006 Public Law No. 109-370 was signed into law by President Bush.

Study Committee

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that congressionally authorized studies “shall be pursued in as close cooperation with appropriate agencies of the affected State and its political subdivisions as possible, shall be carried on jointly with such agencies if request for such joint study is made by the State, and shall include a determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system.” For more than 20 years, the National Park Service has taken advantage of this direction when conducting studies bordered by predominantly private and non-federal lands by encouraging formation of informal study committees based around state and local government representation. Such study committees become an integral part of the study approach, and the regular participation of local and state governments ensures full buy-in to the study process and eventual products. Local and state knowledge is often critical to effective and efficient research regarding potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the study area, and is absolutely essential to the development of local and state-based management strategies for protection of such values. Since it is a central tenet of such non-federal land river studies that land-based resource protection must be primarily accomplished through local, state, and non-governmental action, it is therefore a central task of the study committee to develop

Wild and Scenic Study Committee Photo: Sarah Hincks



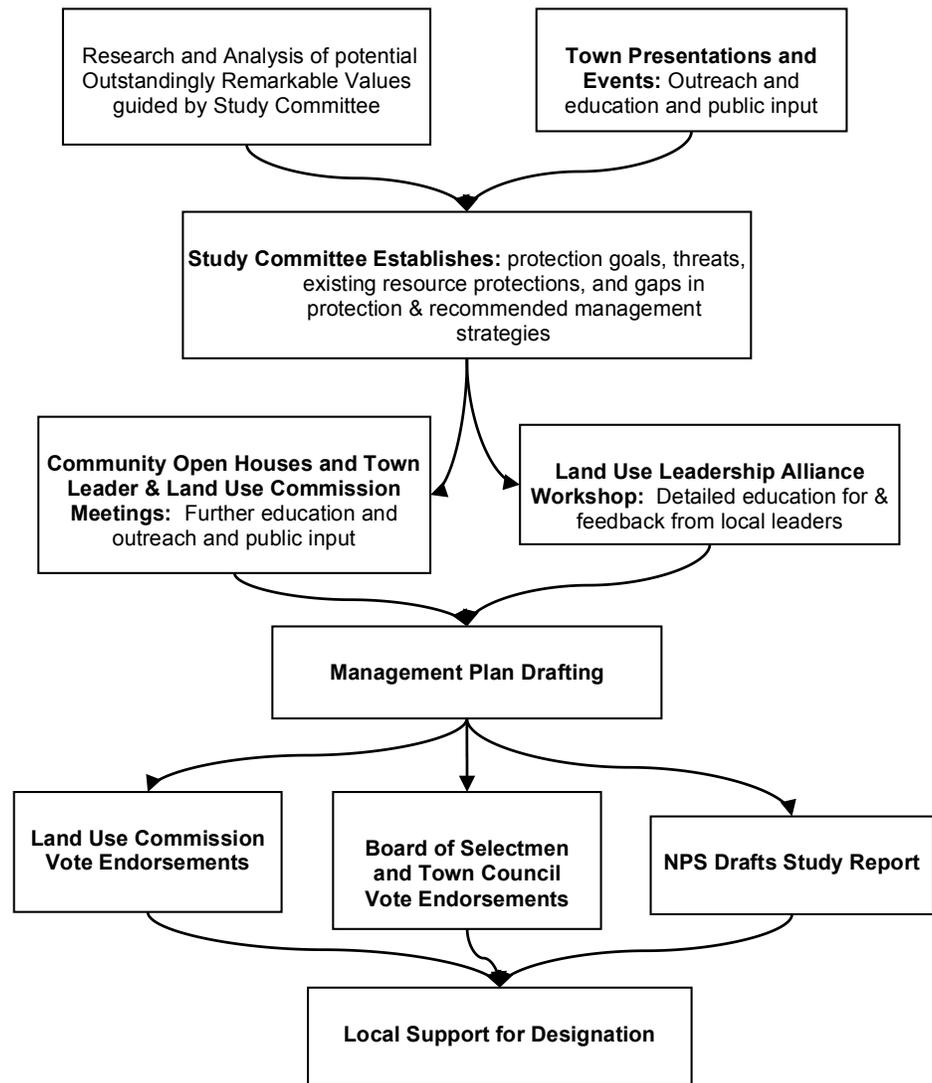


Figure 1: Wild and Scenic Study Process Flow Chart

a locally-based management plan to protect the important river values being researched and documented throughout the study.

As a part of the discussions that took place prior to congressional authorization of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Study, local community support for the study was preconditioned on the understanding that such a study committee would be formed as the first step of the study process. Congress passed the Study bill in November of 2006, and the locally-based Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee began meeting in April, 2007. Committee members were appointed by their towns, and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience in governmental, ecological, and organizational processes to the study team. Committee members included representatives from the ten river towns of the study area, the CT DEP, the Farmington River Watershed Association, Salmon Brook Watershed Association, and Stanley Black &

Decker (owner of the Rainbow Dam). Other organizations that joined the Study Committee through regular participation included the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, the Pequabuck River Watershed Association and the Tariffville Village Association. Additional input from independent researchers, local supporting agencies, professional contractors, and the general public has ensured the study’s progress and comprehensiveness. The National Park Service provided staff support, overall coordination, and technical assistance on the development of the management plan document. Sub-committees on Outstanding Resource Values, Management and Protection, and Outreach and Education helped guide and implement the study process.

Study Approach

Partnership Rivers

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study was carried out in “Partnership” with local stakeholders. The

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers make up a subset of rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Partnership Wild and Scenic River approach was developed in response to the need for a Wild and Scenic River Study and designation program tailored to rivers characterized by extensive private land ownership along the river, and well-established traditions of local control of river management in a community-based setting. This type of study and designation model has a proven track record of effectively creating river protection strategies that bring communities together in protecting, enhancing, and managing high value river resources. Coordinated private sector, local, state, and federal government commitments are leveraged through the partnership approach to achieve efficient and effective Plan implementation.

The National Park Service recognizes 12 Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers in eastern states that have gone through similar partnership-based study processes (coordinated through a locally-based study committee, as discussed above) and which share some common post-designation management approaches including:

- No reliance on federal ownership of land in order to achieve the WSRA's goals of protecting and enhancing river values.

- Land use management is regulated through existing local and state authorities, the same as before a designation.
- Administration and implementation of a locally led Management Plan is accomplished through a broadly participatory management committee, convened for each river specifically for this purpose.
- Responsibility for managing and protecting river resources is shared between the local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners on the committee.
- Reliance on volunteerism as a key to success.
- No National Park Service Superintendent, law enforcement, or similar elements of traditional federally managed units of the National Park System.

The land ownership patterns and local involvement scheme in the Farmington River and Salmon Brook towns closely matches conditions that prompted development of the partnership approach. Therefore, both the study process implemented for this study, and the potential Wild and Scenic River designation model evaluated as a part of the study closely track the precedents established by the existing Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers. For more information about the National Park Service Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers please visit the website: <http://www.nps.gov/pwsr/>

Study Goals and Methods

General

The Study Committee with locally appointed representatives from the ten towns of the study area and representatives from other river stakeholder entities was tasked with:

1. Providing local knowledge and expertise to help guide and interpret research on the natural, cultural, and recreational resource values associated with the rivers. This information forms the basis for both Outstandingly Remarkable Value determinations and the Management Plan.
2. Developing a comprehensive local advisory management plan to serve as a blueprint for improved management and conservation of the identified natural, cultural, and recreational values, with technical assistance from the National Park Service. This Plan could serve the river, local communities, state agencies, and other stakeholders

Study Committee identifies potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values



regardless of whether Wild and Scenic River status is achieved or even sought as a result of the study.

3. To serve as the focal point for local community, citizen, and stakeholder involvement throughout the study process.

To meet these goals, the Study Committee conducted extensive research, established resource protection priorities, and worked intensively within the communities to educate and gain input for the Management Plan.

Research

Early in the study process, the Study Committee formed an Outstanding Resource Values Sub-committee which established that a multitude of special resources define the Farmington River and Salmon Brook. For example, in 2005 the Farmington Valley was highlighted in the book, *Nature-Friendly Communities*, recognizing the area for exceptional biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and for the success of the locally initiated Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project. The Biodiversity Project laid groundwork for the Wild and Scenic Study by documenting the richness of the river valley's plant and animal life. With excellent habitat and water quality the river corridor is a haven for diverse and abundant fish populations, unsurpassed freshwater mussel diversity, and provides a critical dispersal and migratory route for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in the region. The exceptional variety of river-based recreational activities and a rich cultural heritage were also determined to be clear examples of potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) worthy of further study and evaluation as a part of the Study.

The Study Committee identified five distinct potential ORVs which, along with free-flowing character and water quality, formed the backbone of the study's investigations. These five potential ORVs are **Geology, Water Quality, Biological Diversity, Cultural Landscape, and Recreation.**

Research was performed by consultants, academic institutions, Study Committee members, the State of Connecticut, and local supporting agencies. The results of the research helped to produce a clear picture of the status of the potential ORVs, as well as identifying existing protections for the potential ORVs and the management outcomes resulting from these protections.

Major research undertaken during the Wild and Scenic Study to identify ORVs, develop management schemes, and determine eligibility and suitability included several studies and authoritative reports:

Use and Economic Importance of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook:

This three-part study surveyed and evaluated the recreational use of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the watercourse's impact on local business. Additionally, the researchers studied the effect of proximity to the Farmington River and Salmon Brook on the sale prices of single family homes. (Conducted by the Center for Public Policy and Social Research, Central Connecticut State University)

Archaeological Assessment of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook:

This assessment described and analyzed the significance of the archaeological resources of the lands adjacent to the Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The researchers conducted an archaeological sensitivity study of the stream corridors and an eligibility analysis of the archaeological sites for Outstandingly Remarkable Value status. (Conducted by Dr. Kenneth L. Feder, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), Dr. Marc L. Banks, Ph.D., LLC, and Dr. John Harmon, Ph.D., CCSU)

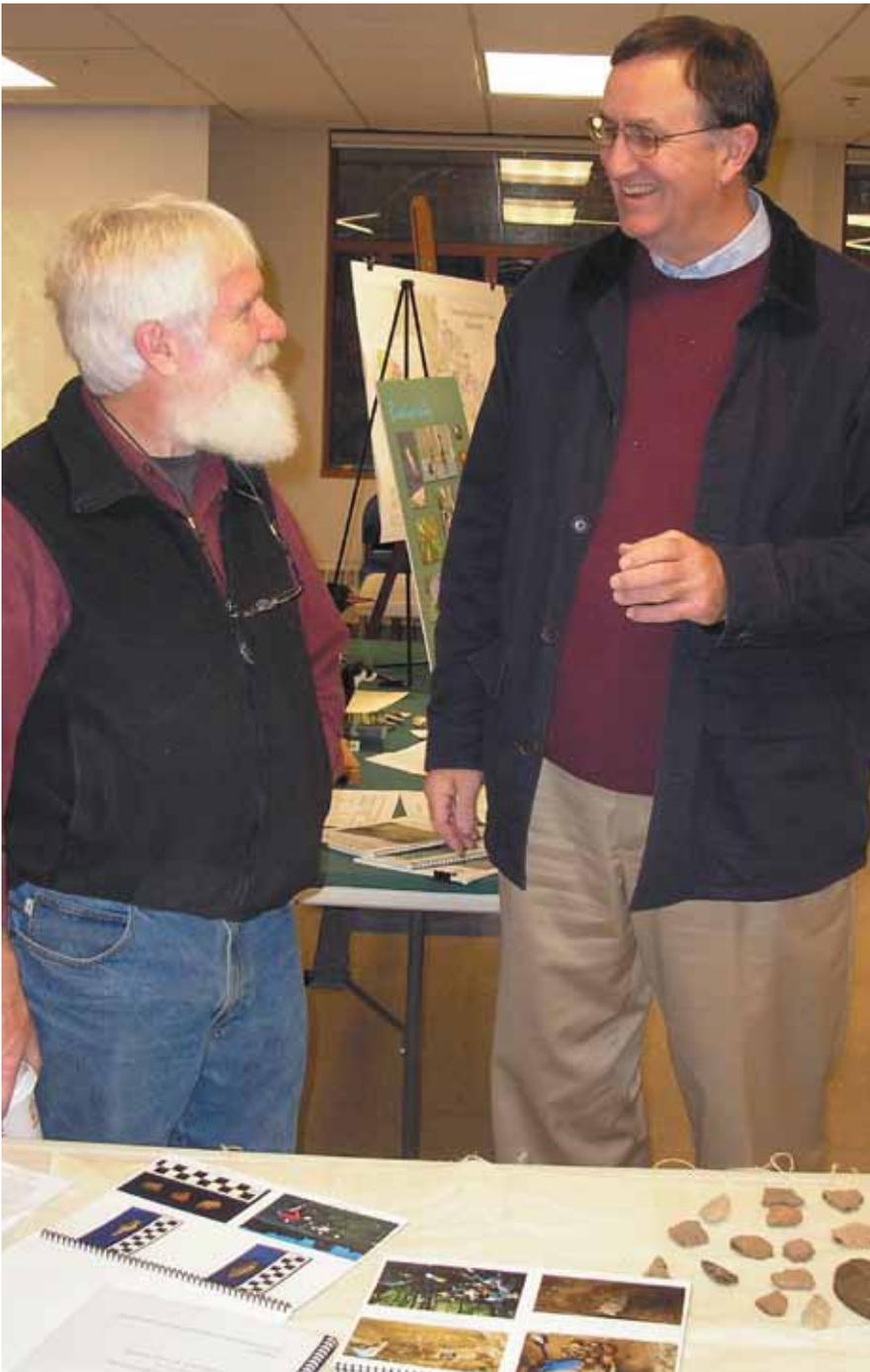
Cultural Landscape Study: This study documented, analyzed, and assessed the significance of the important aspects of the Study area's cultural landscape. (Conducted by Leah S. Glaser, PhD, Lucas Karmazinas, MA, Diana Sheil, BA)

Biodiversity and Vernal Pool Mapping

Project: This project's goal was to map vernal pools in study area and analyze and map ecoregions. (Conducted by Farmington River Watershed Association GIS Specialist Jeff Bolton)

Geology of the Farmington River Valley: The unique geology of the watershed was described in this report. (Conducted by Connecticut State Geologist Emeritus Ralph Lewis)

Tariffville Gorge Hydrologic Study: This study estimated the extent of the current Rainbow Dam impoundment, presented recommendations regarding two different potential boundary locations between the Farmington River's Wild and Scenic designated reach and Rainbow Dam's



Town of Canton Community Open House

impounded reach, and commented on potential impacts related to raising the existing flashboards on the crest of the Rainbow Dam to some height greater than which currently exists. (Conducted by Princeton Hydro Engineering PC)

Municipal Plan and Regulation Review: This effort identified and assessed existing municipal regulations, plans and programs in order to help identify the sufficiency of such regulations, plans and programs for protecting the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. (Conducted by Robinson & Cole LLP)

Management Issues and Threats:

This assessment identified threats to the potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values. (Conducted by Study Committee)

Existing Gaps in Protections: Based on the status of existing regulations, plans and programs, gaps between threats to potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values, and the protection goals established were identified. (Conducted by Study Committee)

Land Trust Survey: This survey of the ten local land trusts collected information regarding open space protection. (Conducted by Study Committee)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Studies: (Conducted by FRWA GIS Specialist Jeff Bolton)

- Viewshed Analysis from the Farmington River and Salmon Brook
- Steep Slopes Analysis
- Local Basin Percent Impervious Surface Analysis
- Core Habitats Analysis
- Integrated Natural Resources Analysis
- Integrated Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Resources Analysis
- Protected Open Space Analysis (focus on Land Trust properties)
- Land Use Types Analysis (within river corridor)
- Dominant Vegetation Types Analysis (within the river corridor)
- Forest Fragmentation Percentages Analysis (entirety of Study Town area)
- National Register of Historic Places Analysis (within river corridor)
- Archaeological Resources Predictive Study

Many of these studies are available in the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan and Appendices and on the Wild and Scenic Study website www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org

Outreach and Education

A major outreach and education effort was conducted throughout the ten-town study region. The Outreach and Education Sub-committee led the effort to reach the leaders and residents of the communities through a series of meetings, presentations, open houses, workshops, booths at events,

Resource conservation and protection should be fully integrated with traditional patterns of use, ownership, and jurisdiction, relying on existing authorities.

newsletters, posters, news articles, and mailings. A media plan was developed to insure that a broad assortment of outreach efforts were used to engage and educate community residents and leaders and gather citizen input for the study, as well as inform the public about the Wild and Scenic Study process and milestones.

Details of the outreach and education program conducted during the Wild and Scenic Study are included in **Consultations and Coordination Chapter**. Examples of the outreach and education efforts are included in the Appendices of this report.

Management Plan

The Study Committee accomplished its major goal by preparing the Management Plan that will function as a blueprint for conservation actions and management practices. It is intended to provide a guidance framework for local commissions and governments as well as for the Wild and Scenic Committee, non-profit organizations, towns, and citizens (if the river receives the federal designation). The Management Plan is intended to serve as the comprehensive plan required for all designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, as well as to stand alone regardless of whether the river gains designation status. Technical assistance and involvement of the National Park Service throughout Plan development made preparation of the Plan feasible, and ensured that Wild and Scenic Rivers Act objectives would be met.

The State of Connecticut, Study area towns, and other stakeholders comprising the Study Committee suggested the following guiding principles for the Management Plan:

1. Resource conservation and protection should be fully integrated with traditional patterns of use, ownership, and jurisdiction, relying on existing authorities.
2. Management of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook should be based on a cooperatively developed plan that establishes resource protection standards and identifies key actions accomplished through cooperation among all public and private organizations with an interest in the river.
3. If the rivers are added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, any land conservation initiatives related to this

designation should be based solely on voluntary willing seller arrangements.

To facilitate preparation of the Management Plan, the Committee established overarching protection goals for each potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV). A set of land use and conservation recommendations were identified to facilitate meeting the goals. These efforts fit into an overall integrated process for developing the plan—the key steps of which included:

1. *Determining existing resource protections* by engaging consultants to determine the adequacy of those protections through a comprehensive review of town regulations, plans, and policies as well as current federal and state regulations.
2. *Setting protection goals* for each resource value at local, state, and federal levels that (a) meet the Wild and Scenic River Act requirements of Section 6(c) and 10(a), which requires protection and enhancement of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), water quality, and free-flowing characteristics that make the river eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and (b) meet any additional protection goals deemed appropriate by the Study Committee.
3. *Identifying threats* that currently impact or are likely to impact the potential ORVs and assigning them priorities based on the significance and likelihood of their potential impact.
4. *Comparing protection goals with known and potential threats* in order to assess the effectiveness of existing resource protection and to identify potential gaps in protection.
5. *Establishing recommended management priorities and strategies based on gaps in protection*: Where gaps were identified between existing protection measures and desired levels of protection, strategies to fill such gaps are recommended in the Management Plan.

The end product of these steps was a series of recommendations in the Management Plan that the Study Committee intends to begin implementing immediately. There also are examples included in the Management Plan of how the Committee and some towns have already taken steps to implement Plan recommendations.

Chapter 2: Description Of The Study Area

2.A. Regional Setting

The Farmington is the largest tributary to the Connecticut River and the Salmon Brook is the largest tributary to the Farmington. Due to its high-quality resources, Salmon Brook is arguably the most important tributary. Salmon Brook joins the Farmington River in the Town of East Granby. The confluence of the Farmington and Connecticut Rivers is in the Town of Windsor which is 55 miles north of the Long Island Sound, 2.8 miles north of the City of Hartford, and 13.1 miles south of the Massachusetts state line. The Farmington River Valley is situated about halfway between New York and Boston. The towns of the Wild and Scenic Study area include Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor.

2.B. Watershed Characteristics

General Description

The Lower Farmington River presents a sharp contrast to its upper reaches in Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. The upper river is generally narrow, swift, and steep-sided, but as it reaches the beginning of the Study Area in Canton and Burlington the river broadens and slows, flowing southeast toward the lowlands of the Town of Farmington. In

mid-Farmington, the river's historical route is blocked by glacial deposits, and it turns sharply north, traversing Avon and Simsbury along an ancient lakebed. This reach of the river is called the "bathtub" because of its relatively placid flow and broad valley, bounded on the east by a traprock ridge. At Tariffville, the river dramatically exits the "bathtub," punching southeast through a notch in the ridge, then meanders through Bloomfield, East Granby, and Windsor before finally entering the Connecticut River.

Salmon Brook resembles the upper reaches of the Farmington River, in that it starts in the western highlands of the Study Area and is generally narrow, swift, and steep sided. The headwaters of the West Branch are in Hartland near Sunset Road. The East Branch extends into Granville, Massachusetts; however, for the purpose of this Management Plan and Wild and Scenic designation, the state line represents the terminus of the East Branch. Salmon Brook flows southeast through Hartland, Granby, and East Granby and has three distinct segments: the main stem, 2.4 miles long; the West Branch, 12.6 miles; and the East Branch, which is 11.4 miles. Salmon Brook is a source of clean cold water that contributes to the high water quality and diversity of life in the lower Farmington River. It joins the Farmington River in East Granby, above the East Granby/Simsbury town line.

Overall, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridors are a remarkable combination of varied geology, healthy forested watershed, excellent fishing and paddling areas, well-kept walking and biking trails, diverse communities of plants, wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates, rich agricultural soils, archaeological sites, historic towns and landmarks, and striking scenic views. The watercourses are exceptional natural and cultural resources.

Ecology and Natural Communities

The landscapes of the Study area range from low, flat wetland to steep upland and thus support a diverse array of plants, including 19 state-listed species. They also provide a critical dispersal and migratory route for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. The thriving mammalian community includes bear, fisher, otter, bobcat, fox, coyote, deer, and occasional

Tariffville Gorge Photo: Bob Perron



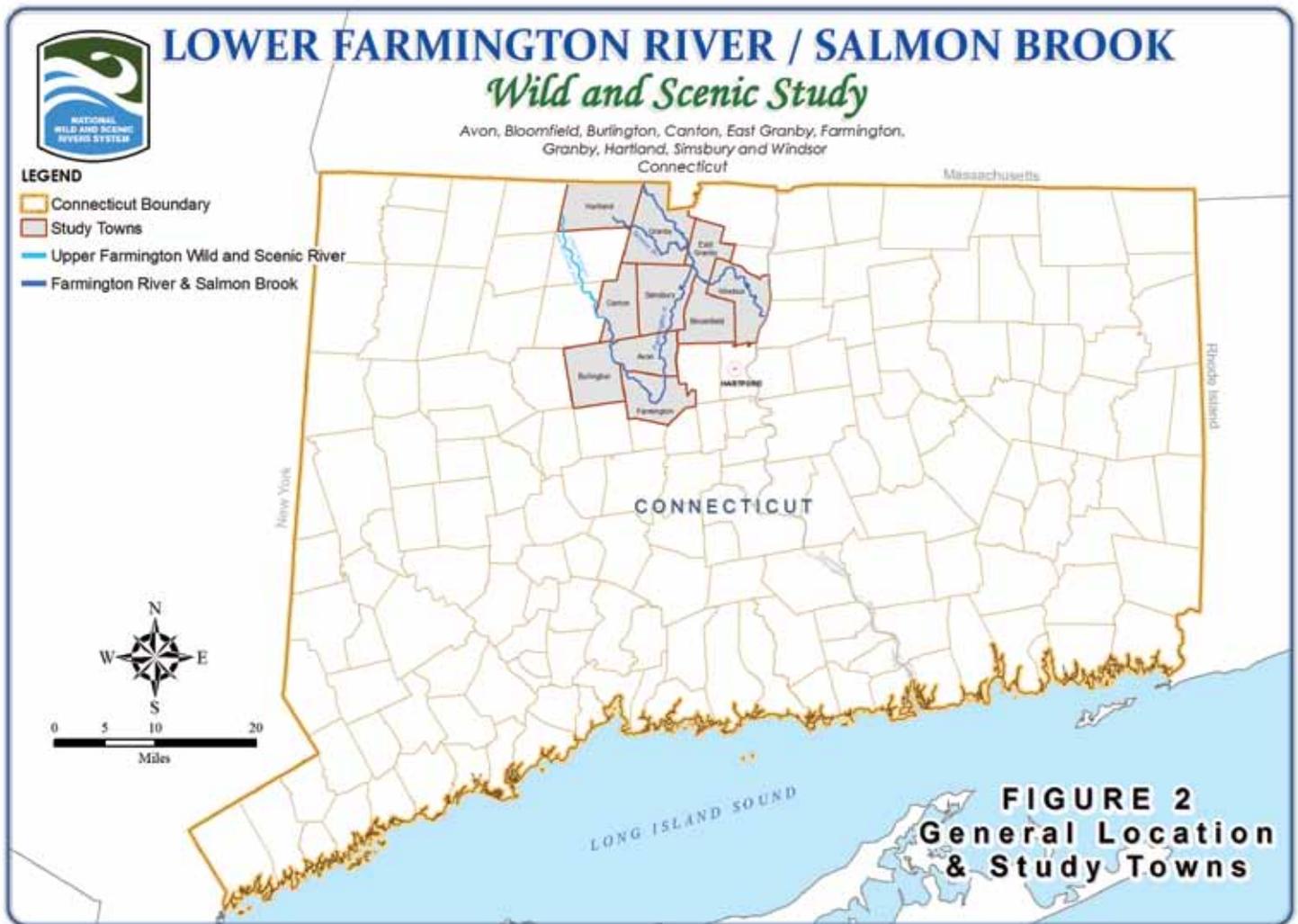


Figure 2: General Location & Study Towns Map

moose. A migratory bird survey conducted along the Farmington in spring 2009 alone yielded a significantly high species diversity (Shannon-Weiner Index of 3.0), totaling 2124 individuals of 105 species, including all state and federally listed raptors as well as a number of other federally listed wading and perching birds. Notable sightings included bald eagle, osprey, American kestrel, northern harrier, American bittern, snowy egret, and great egret. In addition, the river supports a great blue heron rookery. The lower Farmington River is the only river known to support all 12 of the freshwater mussel species native to southern New England. There are only five known viable populations of the federally endangered dwarf wedgemussel worldwide and the Farmington supports the largest. At least 35 species of finfish are also present, supporting an exceptional recreational fishery featuring native brown and brook trout. Migratory fish such as American shad, blueback herring, alewife, American eel, and Atlantic salmon have excellent spawning

habitat in the corridor. The Farmington River is considered one of the most important rivers in Connecticut for diadromous fish restoration and the Salmon Brook the most important tributary to the Farmington for salmon restoration due to high habitat quality and the lack of obstructions to their migration.

Land Use and Ownership Patterns

Land use within the river corridor is similar to that in the watershed as a whole. Large tracts of forest and extensive ridge and wetland systems combine with a mix of urban centers, suburban residential and commercial development, light industry, and agriculture. This combination of land uses in the corridor (in 2000, 52% urban areas, 48% non-urban) can result in declining biodiversity over time. However, the corridor has retained an impressive degree of biodiversity to date, which could be maintained or improved if well managed. Overall the land cover within the corridor is on average 45% forested with an impressive 57% forested within the Salmon Brook corridor. Over 27% of the land in the

corridor is open space and recreation areas. The high percentage of forested land cover and open space contributes to the excellent water quality of the watercourses and the recreational viability of the resource.

The study towns' populations have remained fairly stable with modest increases. The

largest percentage increases over two decades from 1990 to 2009 have occurred within the towns of Avon (10%), Canton (15%), and East Granby (10%). The towns with populations exceeding 20,000 include the towns of Bloomfield, Farmington, Simsbury, and Windsor.

See Figure 3 & 4 & 5 Land Use Percentages within the Corridor, Study Corridor Land Cover Values and U.S. Census Populations from 1990–2009.

Figure 3: Land Use Percentages Within the Corridor

Land Use Classification	Farmington River	Salmon Brook	Total Area
Agriculture	9.4%	8.4%	9.1%
Residential	22.2%	47.3%	30.3%
Commercial	8.0%	0.8%	5.7%
Industrial	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cemetery	0.7%	0.2%	0.6%
ROW (Road & Utility)	5.8%	4.5%	5.4%
Mixed Use	12.3%	0.2%	8.4%
Health/Medical	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Open Space/Recreation	27.0%	28.0%	27.3%
Government/Non-Profit	4.1%	0.2%	2.8%
Undeveloped	9.3%	10.2%	9.6%
Unknown	0.8%	0.0%	0.6%

“Overall, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridors are a remarkable combination of varied geology, healthy forested watershed, excellent fishing and paddling areas, well-kept walking and biking trails, diverse communities of plants, wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates, rich agricultural soils, archaeological sites, historic towns and landmarks, and striking scenic views. The watercourses are exceptional natural and cultural resources.”

“At least 35 species of finfish are also present, supporting an exceptional recreational fishery featuring native brown and brook trout.”

Figure 4: Study Corridor Land Cover Values

Sorted by Total Study Town Area

Classification	Farmington River	Salmon Brook	Total Area
Deciduous Forest	33%	35%	34%
Developed/Roads	18%	14%	17%
Agriculture	13%	16%	14%
Coniferous Forest	6%	22%	11%
Turf & Grass	9%	7%	8%
Water	12%	1%	8%
Other Grasses	4%	2%	3%
Forested Wetland	3%	3%	3%
Utility ROWs	1%	0%	1%
Non-forested Wetland	0%	0%	0%
Barren Land	0%	0%	0%

Land Cover data from UCONN CLEAR (2006)

Figure 5: U.S. Census Populations from 1990–2009

Town	Percent Change 2000–2009	Census 2009	Census 2000	Census 1990
Hartland	4%	2,087	2,012	1,866
Granby	8%	11,220	10,347	9,369
East Granby	10%	5,210	4,745	4,302
Windsor	3%	29,014	28,237	27,817
Bloomfield	6%	20,696	19,587	19,483
Simsbury	2%	23,648	23,234	22,023
Avon	10%	17,357	15,832	13,937
Farmington	6%	25,144	23,641	20,608
Canton	15%	10,125	8,840	8,268
Total:	6%	144,501	136,475	127,673

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Population Estimates
Census 2000, 1990 Census (FactFinder.census.gov)

Chapter 3: Eligibility And Classification

The purpose of this chapter is to document National Park Service findings relative to: 1.) the “outstandingly remarkable” natural and cultural resource values associated with the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Study Area; 2.) the “free-flowing character” of the study segments; and 3.) the preliminary “classifications” which would be appropriate if the segments are included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

3.A. Eligibility and Classification Criteria

The subsections below describe the relevant eligibility and classification criteria as set forth in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, in the USDA/USDI Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas as published in the Federal Register on September 7, 1982, and in the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service Technical Report of the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council on the Wild & Scenic Rivers Study Process. IWSRCC, December 1999.

3.A.1 Outstandingly Remarkable Values

To be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System a river segment, together with its adjacent lands, must support one or more “outstandingly remarkable” natural, cultural, or recreational resource values. Such resource values must be directly related to, or dependent upon, the river and its adjacent lands (generally ¼ mile or another geographic area as defined by the study team). The “outstandingly remarkable” threshold within the Act is designed to be interpreted through the professional judgment of the study team during the Wild and Scenic Study.

The descriptions below provide examples to help interpret this “outstandingly remarkable” eligibility requirement.

Nationally Significant Values

Resource values which are nationally significant clearly meet the “outstandingly remarkable” threshold. A nationally significant resource would be rare, unique, or exemplary at a national scale. For example, a recreational boating experience that draws visitors from all over the nation would qualify as a nationally significant recreational resource.

Regionally Significant Values

Based upon the desirability of protecting a regional diversity of rivers through the

national system, a river segment may qualify based on regionally rare, unique or exemplary resource values. The area, region, or scale of comparison is not fixed, and should be defined as that which serves as a basis for meaningful comparative analysis; it may vary depending on the value being considered. For example, physiographic regions are appropriate for geologic and biologic resources, while the region occupied by a particular culture is appropriate for archaeological resources.

Values Significant in Aggregate

A river may qualify for a given resource value based upon an aggregate of important values, no one of which would confer eligibility standing alone. For example, a series of unusual and distinctive river-related geologic features may together qualify a segment as exhibiting an “outstandingly remarkable geologic value” even though no one element meets the criteria alone.

Defining “River-Related” Values

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council (IWSRCC) has characterized the determination as to whether a given resource value is river-related as based on three criteria. To be river-related a resource value should:

- 1) Be located in the river or in its immediate shorelands (generally within ¼ miles on either side of the river).
- 2) Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem.
- 3) Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

For the purposes of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Study, the geographic area of consideration for the majority of land-based values was established as those resources located within ¼ mile of the river. The town-wide Study Area was established as the geographic range of consideration of the

potential Geology ORV due to the scale of geologic processes relating to the formation of unique landscape features, as well as outstanding resources directly related to the geologic resources. For example, the Traprock Ridge, a prominent scenic and geologic feature bounding the eastern edge of the Farmington River Valley, influenced the course of the river's path. As the lower Farmington River was redirected north during the period of glacial retreat, it skirted the base of the Traprock Ridge until it was able to punch a path east through the Tariffville Gorge. Another example is the broad floodplain valley of the lower Farmington, with its high quality agricultural soils and abundant life that directly relate to its geological past.

3.A.2 Free-flowing

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is designed to protect eligible "free-flowing" rivers and sections of rivers that support significant resource values from the adverse impacts of federally-assisted water resource projects, such as construction of new dams. The Act's definition of "free-flowing" is outlined in Section 16:

(b) "Free-flowing", as applied to any river or section of a river, means existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system shall not automatically bar its consideration for such inclusion: Provided, That this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

A river or river segment can be considered for designation if it is above or below a dam or is dependent on releases from a dam. Any section of river with flowing water, even if impounded upstream meets the definition of free-flowing, as long as existing flows are sufficient to support flow-dependent ORVs and water quality.

3.A.3 Classification Criteria

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that all eligible or designated river segments be

classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. These classifications are based solely on the amount of human impact present at the time of classification. The Act defines them as follows.

Wild river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

3.B. Eligibility and Preliminary Classification

The lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook free-flowing segments are found eligible for designation based on the presence of multiple Outstandingly Remarkable Values. These segments meet the classification definition of a "recreational river area" due to the level of human impact.

3.B.1 Free-flowing Determination

This subsection presents an inventory of study area remnant and historic dams, and describes the free-flowing character of the study segments.

General Streamflow Conditions

Streamflow conditions on the Lower Farmington River are governed by a complex series of legal and procedural arrangements dating back to the 1800s. Riparian Agreements between the Metropolitan District Commission and local towns and other hydropower users established a system for managing the water flow to serve river users and benefit the river system. During the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Study, prior to the upper river's Wild and Scenic designation in 1994, an in-stream flow study was conducted, in part to assess the effects of dams farther upstream that regulate flow. The flow study documented the multitude of demands for water and determined that the resulting river flows are

The lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook free-flowing segments are found eligible for designation based on the presence of multiple Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

adequate to support the in-stream values for which the river was designated. It concluded that the existing flows are regulated through established minimum and optimum flows that support the river's fisheries, biological and recreation resources, and aesthetic qualities. The regulation of flows has helped to sustain and enhance river uses, such as recreation, particularly during low flow periods. In summer, when the natural flows are lowest, recreational flows are supported through stable and predictable releases from upstream dams. In fact, recreation in the Tariffville Gorge is an Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) in part due to its regional significance as a year round paddling destination. Biological productivity is also enhanced by the consistent river flow regime and cold-water releases from upstream dams. The in-stream flow study indicated that the lower Farmington River resources are supported by the current flow regime and as stated in the 1982 Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas, "*Flows are sufficient if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated.*"

The flow study also considered alternative flow scenarios by taking into consideration the multiple water resource demands (water supply, waste assimilation, flood control, riparian releases, and minimum flow releases) versus protection of studied resources and determined that there is sufficient flow even under dry conditions (though not under severe drought conditions) to protect the resources. The in-stream flow study will continue to serve as a tool in maintaining adequate river flows into the future as it can be used to evaluate whether future water allocation demands are compatible with protection of the resources.

The flows of Salmon Brook and its East and West Branches are not regulated by impoundments or other man-made substantial flow alterations, releases or diversions. The two small dams on the East Branch of Salmon Brook do not regulate flow.

Inventory and Description of Study Area Dams

The Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee, in cooperation with the Connecticut Department

of Environmental Protection, has assessed the existing dams of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook to determine whether the structures meet the Act's free-flowing river definition that permits the existence of low dams on Wild and Scenic Rivers provided that affected river reaches remain "generally riverine in appearance." The watercourses have a series of seven historic dams due to the river-powered industries of the past; five dams on the Farmington and two dams on the East Branch of the Salmon Brook. The majority of the dams are low head dams that do not appreciably alter the flow or riverine appearance of the river. Each dam or remnant dam is discussed below.

Lower Farmington River Dams and Remnant Dams

Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams

The Upper Collinsville Dam is located in the historic village of Collinsville, which is part of the Town of Canton, and the Lower Collinsville Dam is located one mile below the Upper Collinsville dam in the Towns of Avon and Burlington. Both the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams are owned by the CT DEP and classified as recreational use dams. They are low head dams, standing 28 and 20 feet respectively. The upper dam has high aesthetic, historical, and recreational value. Both dams generated power for the historic Collins Company up until 1966. At present, both Collinsville Dams are barriers to upstream fish passage for a number of anadromous (migrating) and resident fish. The dams do create small impoundment areas, but, overall, the river remains "generally riverine in appearance" throughout the area.

Winchell-Smith/Gristmill Dam

The remains of the historic Winchell-Smith/Gristmill Dam in Farmington was possibly the first gristmill built on the Farmington during the Colonial era and is valued for its scenic qualities and the resulting series of rapids. This historic dam can prevent upstream migration at least to American shad, alewife, and blueback herring at many flow levels. This restricts access for these three species to nearly 12 miles of mainstem habitat, as well as access to the Pequabuck River and its tributaries as far as the King Street Dam in Bristol. A grant to the Farmington River Watershed Association from DEP's Supplemental Environmental Projects fund allowed an engineering firm to review



Spoonville Dam slated for removal pending funding

alternatives and design improved fish passage at this site. Dam removal was considered, but rejected because of the historical nature of the dam and the aesthetic value it provides to nearby property owners. The preferred alternative and final design was for a natural-looking rock ramp that blends visually with the surroundings and provides an incline for fish to surmount the dam. Now that the design is complete, efforts can be made to secure funding for construction. This fish enhancement project is consistent with the goals presented in the Management Plan and the NPS has been supportive of this proposal. This small historic dam in the Town of Farmington does not appreciably alter free-flowing river character.

Spoonville Dam

The Spoonville Dam was breached during the 1955 flood and is considered a safety

hazard as well as an impediment to fish passage. Since the dam is breached it is no longer officially listed on DEP's list of dams of the lower Farmington. A Farmington River Enhancement Grant was awarded to the Farmington River Watershed Association by the DEP for an engineering design to improve fish passage. A final plan for the preferred alternative of full removal of the dam and its fragments was completed in April 2010. Funding is currently being sought for dam removal which is estimated to cost 1.4 million dollars. Funding in the amount of \$500,000 was just recently awarded through the Connecticut Long Island Sound Fund license plate program. Full dam removal will restore the site for fish passage of a range of diadromous and resident species. The property owner, CT Light and Power Co. (a subsidiary of Northeast Utilities) supports the proposed project. The primary conservation

goal of the project is to enable a larger number of American shad, blueback herring, and alewife to pass upstream of Tariffville Gorge on the Farmington River and to access an additional 20+ miles of mainstem river habitat. This fish enhancement project is consistent with the goals presented in the Management Plan and the NPS has been supportive of this proposal. The breached Spoonville Dam located in East Granby and Bloomfield does not appreciably alter free-flowing river conditions.

Rainbow Dam and Reservoir

The Rainbow Dam stands 59 feet high and is located in the Town of Windsor. The Rainbow Dam is owned by Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) and is run by the Farmington River Power Company (FRPC) as a “run-of-river” hydroelectric facility. According to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission filing for Stanley Works form U-3A-2 for 2004:

FRPC owns and operates the Rainbow Dam Hydroelectric Facility located on the Farmington River in Windsor, Connecticut. The hydroelectric facility consists of the Rainbow Dam, a power house with an 8 megawatt generating capacity, switching and transformer equipment, flow and flood rights and various storage and outbuildings all located in Windsor, Connecticut

Built in 1925, the facility has operated continuously since that time without a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. The facility was constructed prior to the FERC permitting program and had been grandfathered since. Water is held back over a 24-hour period to maximize power generation and efficiency. If operated as an instantaneous “run-of-river” facility there would be steadier releases, but the release process would result in a reduction of power generation. The flow regime below the Rainbow Dam experiences some fluctuation but is stable with no major changes over time. A 1961 riparian agreement established FRPC’s rights to a consistent source of flow for power generation at the Rainbow Dam. The resulting reservoir is utilized for recreation, is lake-like in appearance until a point at approximately the Windsor/Bloomfield/East Granby town line where the Farmington River is again riverine in appearance.

During the Wild and Scenic Study it was uncovered that the exact upstream extent

of the Rainbow Reservoir had never been fully determined, and, in the absence of a FERC license, there exists no established regulatory Project Boundary to help define the extent of impoundment. The Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) representative to the Wild and Scenic Study Committee initially defined the extent of impoundment as extending from the Rainbow Dam upstream to the Rt. 187 bridge. This position was later revised based upon additional company research to extend the boundary to approximately a half-mile upstream of the Rt. 187 bridge. In an effort to objectively and independently assess the extent of the impoundment, the Study Committee contracted with a professional engineer to conduct a hydrology study based on the best available data to better define an appropriate upstream boundary. Additional discussion of this topic can be found under the Suitability Chapter.

The fish ladder at the Rainbow Dam was constructed in 1976 by the CT DEP, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Stanley Works (now SBD), and is currently owned and operated by the CT DEP-Inland Fisheries Division. The fishway is in disrepair and does not support the passage of all anadromous (migrating) fish species of the Farmington. The CT DEP has concluded that installation of a “fish lift” design would resolve this issue. At this critical gateway point to the Farmington, it is crucial that this situation be rectified to support the diversity of aquatic life determined to be one of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. If the river is designated, the Wild and Scenic Committee will take a role in the realization of this project by partnering with the key stakeholders.

The approximately 4.5 mile segment of the Farmington River encompassing the Rainbow Dam, its reservoir, and tailraces does not meet the free-flowing requirement for Wild and Scenic River eligibility because of the slackwater, lake-like impoundment.

East Branch Salmon Brook

Forman Pond Dam

The Forman Pond Dam is located on the East Branch of the Salmon Brook in Granby. It is a small privately owned dam that stands 10.5 feet and was built for recreational purposes. It is not an obstacle to fish passage due to the presence of the Craigmill Gorge and falls located downstream. The First Pond

...spectacular vistas and recreational opportunities are associated with the Traprock Ridges, and gaps in the ridges were historically important because they provided pathways for east-west commerce before motorized transport.

Dam (described below) presents a natural impediment to fish migration. There are no dams situated on the Salmon Brook where fish have historically had access. The Forman Pond Dam is low and the stream remains generally riverine in appearance throughout, therefore this segment is compatible with the requirement for Wild and Scenic eligibility.

First Pond Dam

First Pond Dam is located at the Silver Street crossing on the East Branch of the Salmon Brook in Granby. It is a historic dam that stands only one foot high above a 20 feet high natural rock falls within the Craigmill Gorge. The existing falls are a natural obstacle to fish passage. The dam is just one foot high above the natural falls and therefore does not appreciably alter free-flowing river conditions.

Conclusions

Approximately 37 miles of the lower Farmington River and 26.4 miles of the Salmon Brook meet the free-flowing criteria for Wild and Scenic River eligibility. Due to the presence of several historical, low-head and remnant dams, the segments best meet the free-flowing criteria for “recreational” classification.

The Rainbow Dam and impoundment are significant structures which fail the “generally riverine in appearance” threshold. Therefore, the 4.5 mile segment encompassing the Rainbow Dam and reservoir is not found to be free-flowing. Other than the Rainbow Dam, there are no other significant channel modifications on either stream that would preclude the free-flowing eligibility criteria.

3.C. Outstandingly Remarkable Values

This subsection describes the natural and cultural resource values supported by the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook that are deemed to meet the “Outstandingly Remarkable” threshold. More detailed information on these resource values can be found in the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan and on the Study website at www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org. All of the resources cited contribute to the overall eligibility of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook for designation. Not all river reaches in the study area support all noted outstanding values, but there is no stretch of river which does not contribute to the viability of the whole.

The Wild and Scenic Study Committee was tasked with identifying and researching potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) associated with the watercourses as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Not just one, but five potential ORVs were identified. The geographic area of consideration for the majority of land-based values was established as those resources located within ¼ mile of the watercourses. The town-wide Study Area was established as the geographic range of consideration of the potential Geology ORV and geologically dependent resources, due to the magnitude of geologic processes. The examination of these resources (as described in detail in the Management Plan and briefly below) was accomplished through substantial research that was conducted prior to and during the Study, and included evaluation of the significance of the resources within a state-wide and regional context by means of consultations with experts and professionals (see Chapter 6.C. for a list of the expert advisors consulted in the documentation of the ORVs). The resources fall within the following categories: **Geology, Water Quality, Biological Diversity, Cultural Landscape, and Recreation.**

NOTE: Maps and in-depth analysis relating to each ORV and can be found in the accompanying document: “Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Management Plan”.

Geology

Geology was considered on a broader scale than the other Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) due to the scale of the mechanisms that produced the varied geology of the Study Area over a long period of time. The role that watercourses and glaciation had in forming the landscape of the Farmington River Valley is evident in the path of the river, development patterns, and land uses, making geology a defining element that supports some of the other ORVs. The ORVs including Water Quality, Biodiversity, Cultural Landscape, and Recreation are all tied to the region’s geology. For example, the chemistry of Traprock provides atypical nutrients to support unique vegetation. Also, spectacular vistas and recreational opportunities are associated with the Traprock Ridges, and gaps in the ridges were historically important because they provided pathways for east-west commerce



LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER / SALMON BROOK

Wild and Scenic Study

Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor Connecticut

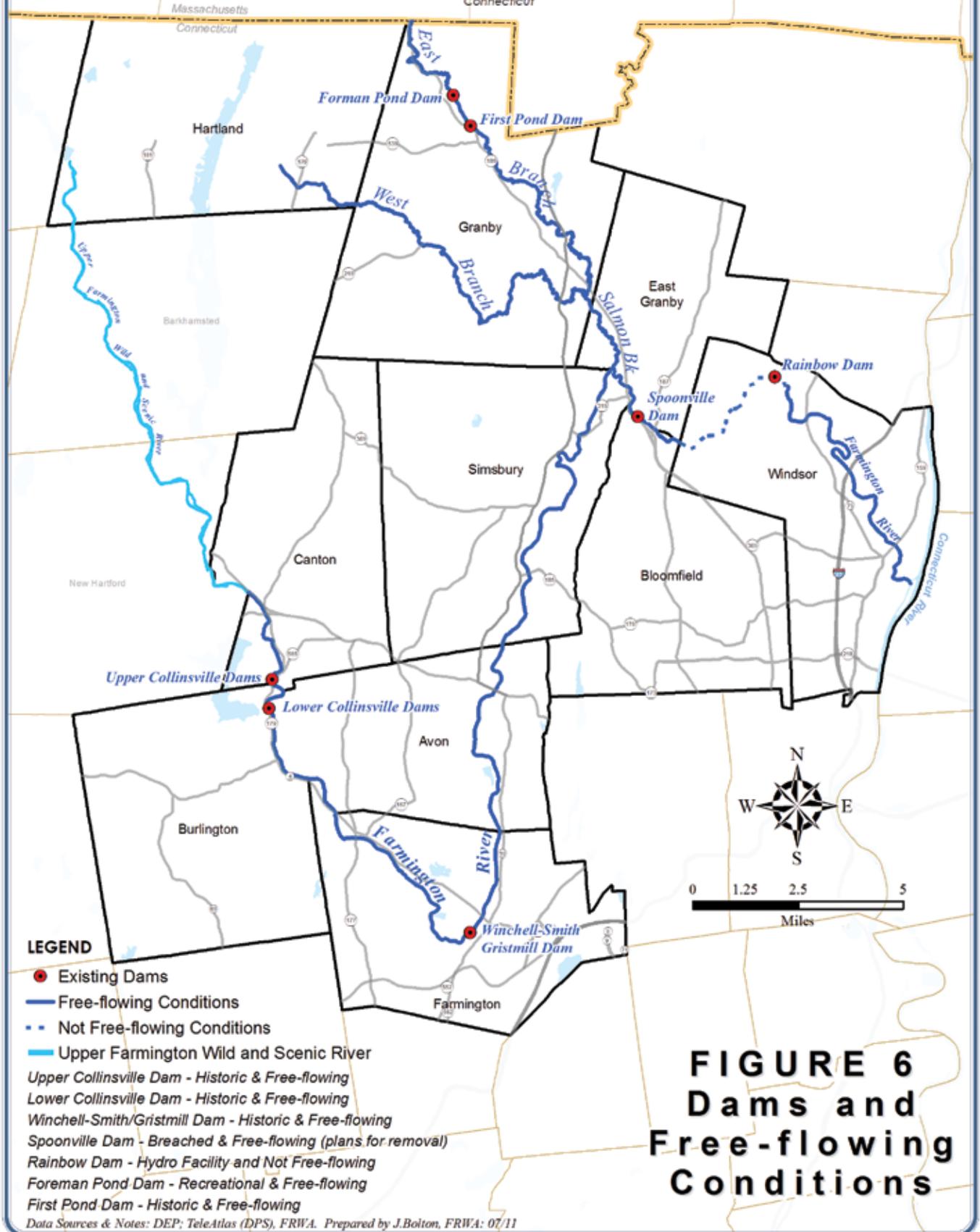


FIGURE 6 Dams and Free-flowing Conditions

before motorized transport. Many of these historic routes are still in use today.

Of particular interest is the distinct turn in the river's course in the Town of Farmington. The river was diverted north from its original southern flowing trajectory due to a classic glacial diversion. The evidence of a glacial process is a unique opportunity for Connecticut residents to witness geologic history as they traverse the river valley and find the river to flow south, north and east; all within a small geographic area. In addition, the river carved a path to the Connecticut River through the Tariffville Gorge and created another public education opportunity for viewing geologic history. The Tariffville Gorge provides for nationally recognized boating use, unique habitat for rare plants, oxygenated water that provides for a diverse array of aquatic life, and the archaeological record indicates that it was a Native American anadromous fishing destination.

Two additional aspects of the geology of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study area contribute to the Outstandingly Remarkable Value of the area's

geology. The first aspect is that the land area of the ten Study Area towns is small but contains an unusually large time span of geologic history for its size. A billion years of geologic history is represented by the area's geological features. The oldest bedrock in the Study Area dates back to Proto-North America and is a billion years old. The Study Area also has a significant expanse of the youngest bedrock in Connecticut, the 200 million year old bedrock in the Hartford Basin (Newark Terrane). The Farmington is the only river in Connecticut that flows over both the state's oldest and its youngest bedrock.

The second contributing geologic resource is the large variety of geologic features within the Study Area. The Study Area covers three bedrock terranes, has examples of many glacial features, and has an extensive history of mining and quarrying within a small area. This is exceptional in Connecticut. Some examples of these diverse features include:

- The Newgate Prison and Mine in East Granby which opened in around 1705, was one of the first mines in the British Colonies.

Salmon Brook Photo: Tom Cameron

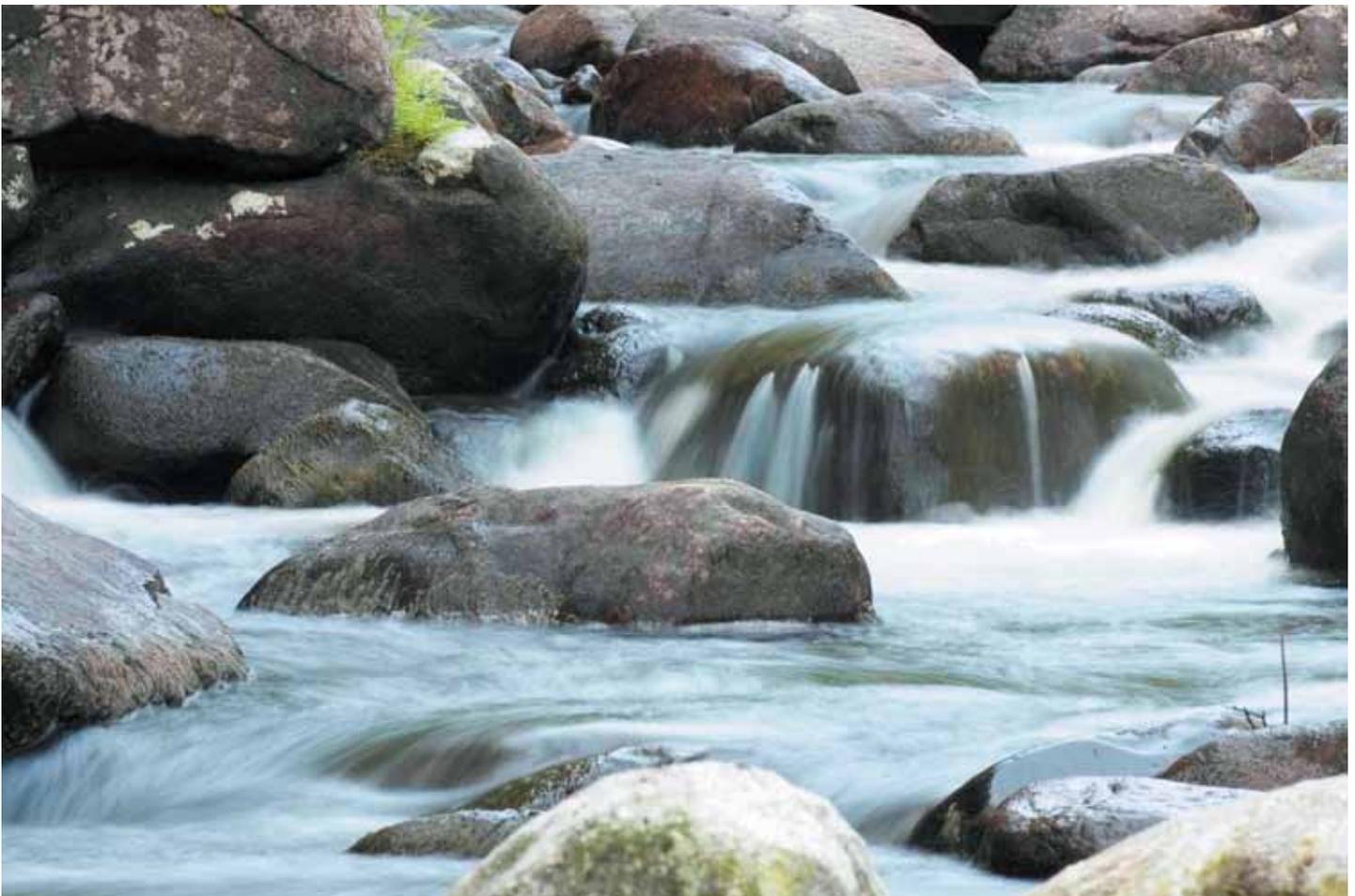




Photo: Wanda Colman

- Brownstone quarries in Simsbury, which provided building stone for the present town hall, Central School, the Methodist Church, and the buildings of Ensign Bickford, (now Dyno-Nobel).
- The Traprock Ridges that represent lava flows in a rift valley make the Hartford Basin unique in New England. There are few Traprock Ridges found in North America with one other example being the Palisades of New York.
- One of the rare (there are only three) true granites or igneous rocks of Connecticut, the 400 million year old Nonewaug, occupies the northwestern corner of Burlington.
- The metamorphosed remains of the Shelburne Falls Arc, an ancient, Japan-like, volcanic island arc, extend northward from Burlington to the Massachusetts line in Granby.
- Bedrock units that range in age from the billion year old metamorphic gneisses and schists of western Hartland to the 200 million year old dolerites, basalts (traprock), and arkoses (brownstone) of Granby, Simsbury, Avon, East Granby, Bloomfield, and Windsor.

Water Quality

The excellent water quality of Salmon Brook and very high water quality of the lower Farmington River compared to other rivers its

size in Connecticut are defining characteristics of these watercourses. The headwaters of both are in largely undeveloped, wooded landscapes. Trees on stream banks provide shade, keeping water temperatures low, and vegetated buffers protect rivers from nonpoint source pollution. The exceptional water quality in the upper Farmington River and in Salmon Brook contributes substantially to the quality of water in the lower Farmington, which supports a diversity of species and habitats, and provides many recreational opportunities including boating, swimming, and fishing. The upper Farmington River Watershed (East Branch) also provides drinking water to over 600,000 people in greater Hartford.

Robust biological indicators show water quality in the study area to be high. The data from the CT DEP demonstrate that water quality and aquatic habitat of the Salmon Brook is excellent and in the Farmington River is very good for a river its size. Salmon Brook is known to be one of the last true cold water fisheries and to have some of the best salmon habitat in the State of Connecticut. Salmon Brook provides an influx of clean cold water to the lower Farmington River. Water temperature is maintained due to the excellence of the Brook's riparian buffers, particularly in the upper segments of both branches of the Brook. There are

Some key findings on the exemplary status of Geology of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook:

- The glacial diversion of the Farmington River from its probable original path to New Haven northward through the Tariffville Gorge is a classic glacial diversion which is unique in Connecticut.
- Rare plant and animal habitats associated with geologic features such as the Traprock Ridge, the Tariffville Gorge, and the Sandplains.
- A billion year time span of earth history and broad diversity of features within a 35.1 square mile area.
- The alluvial soils that formed under glacial Lake Hitchcock and glacial Lake Farmington which are among the best farmland soils of the United States. Due to the glaciation history it has the highest soil diversity in Connecticut and one of the most complex soil systems in the United States. There are over 200 different soil types in Connecticut, 50 percent are represented in the Farmington River Valley. In turn, the biodiversity and habitat complexity of the Study Area is strongly influenced by this soil complexity. One of the original soil surveys was conducted in 1899 to promote tobacco cultivation in the lower Farmington Valley.



Endangered dwarf wedgemussel
Photo: Ethan Nadeau

Some key findings on the status of Water Quality in the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook:

- Salmon Brook is considered to exhibit among the highest water quality of any river in Connecticut.
- Due to the excellent water quality of Salmon Brook, it is one of the premier cold-water fisheries of the state and is a top priority targeted stream for salmon restoration. Outstanding recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing in the streams relate directly to the presence of high water quality. The excellent water quality in Salmon Brook provides for swimming opportunities.
- Aquatic insect studies for the Salmon Brook indicate that conditions within the watershed are among the very best in Connecticut. For example, stoneflies, indicative of high water quality, are found throughout the Salmon Brook basin. Overall, both the Farmington and Salmon Brook macroinvertebrate communities are outstanding.
- The variety and abundance of freshwater mussel and fish species is an indicator of high water quality.

Carex davissi, regionally rare plant of Study area
Photo: Bill Moorhead



no wastewater or industrial surface point discharges into the Salmon Brook. Water quality monitoring programs conducted by the USGS, the state, and local organizations produce high quality baseline data that result in effective water resource protection and enhancement of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

The water quality of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook is recognized as an Outstandingly Remarkable Value based on

- The diverse natural communities it supports,
- The enormous recreational resource it provides, and
- The drinking water it supplies to Connecticut.

Biological Diversity

The groundbreaking Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project (FVBP) covering six of the ten Study Towns and published in 2006, laid important groundwork for the Wild and Scenic Study and Management Plan because it documented the exceptional biodiversity of the watershed as an Outstandingly Remarkable Value. A major goal of the FVBP was to provide information to towns that would assist with intermunicipal land and river management. Additional biodiversity information for all ten corridor towns comes from the Biodiversity and Vernal Pool Mapping Project sponsored by the Wild and Scenic Study Committee.

The river itself is the only one known to support all 12 of the freshwater mussel species native to southern New England. The Farmington River may contain one of New England's most—and Connecticut's only—viable dwarf wedgemussel populations, which is the only federally endangered freshwater mussel that occurs in New England. Next to the Connecticut River, the lower Farmington River has the highest fish diversity in the state. At least 35 species of finfish are present, supporting an exceptional recreational fishery including native brown and brook trout. Salmon Brook contributes to the diversity and is one of the last true cold water fisheries in Connecticut supporting 25 fish species.

Migratory fish such as American shad, blueback herring, alewife, American eel, and Atlantic salmon have excellent spawning habitat in the corridor. The Farmington River provides excellent connectivity to the Connecticut River system and is one of the CT DEP's priority rivers for fish restoration due to its exceptional habitat for both resident and diadromous fish species. It is one of two tributary streams in Connecticut that host an annual adult Atlantic salmon run and hosts one of the best shad runs in the state (other than the mainstem Connecticut).

The corridor landscape ranges from low, flat wetland to steep upland and thus supports a diverse array of plants, including 19 state-listed species. It also provides a critical dispersal and migratory route for both terrestrial and

aquatic wildlife. The thriving mammalian community includes bear, fisher, otter, bobcat, coyote, deer, and occasional moose. A brief bird survey conducted along the Farmington in spring 2009 alone yielded a significantly high species diversity (Shannon-Weiner Index of 3.0), totaling 2124 individuals of 105 species, including all state and federally listed raptors as well as a number of other federally listed wading and perching birds. Notable sightings included bald eagle, osprey, American kestrel, northern harrier, American bittern, snowy egret, and great egret.

The watershed as a whole comprises ten ecoregions, or areas with distinctive ecological and physical features. Within the Study Area river corridor, seven ecoregions are either so distinctive or so extensive that they contribute significantly to the corridor's biodiversity. For example, in Granby and Hartland, the upper east and west branches of Salmon Brook traverse two ecoregions known as Highland and Highland Transition. Compared to the lower Farmington's corridor, this ecoregion generally has higher elevations, steeper slopes, and more dramatic stream gradients. About 13.4% of the whole lower Farmington and

Salmon Brook corridor consists of "core forest," and much of this is in the Salmon Brook headwater region (Highland and Highland Transition). Here, large tracts of contiguous forests of northern hardwoods and conifers support robust communities of *forest interior* birds including the state-listed Cerulean Warbler. Black bear, fisher, bobcat, otter, and an occasional moose are also characteristic of this part of the corridor.

Within the Traprock Ridge Ecoregion the river skirts the base of the traprock ridge. Steep slopes, moist ravines, and mineral-rich ledges of basalt talus are found within the corridor. These spots have distinctive microclimates that support plant and animal communities uncommon in Connecticut. Spiked false-oats, once thought to be extirpated, is one of the notable species found along the traprock ridges, as well as Virginia copperleaf and blue-spotted salamander.

The Sand Plains Ecoregions support unique *sand plain grassland communities*, including populations of the federally listed Savannah Sparrow and the Pine Barrens Tiger Beetle, whose habitats are at a premium and in need of protection, as well as the state-listed species Low Frostweed.

Some key findings on the status of Biological Diversity in the Farmington and Salmon Brook:

- The river itself is the only one known to support all 12 of the freshwater mussel species native to southern New England. The Farmington River may contain one of the New England's most—and Connecticut's only—viable dwarf wedgemussel populations, which is the only federally endangered freshwater mussel that occurs in New England.
- There are 19 state-listed plant species within the corridor including the only known population of Dwarf bulrush in a river ecosystem, the only known population of Purple giant hyssop in Connecticut and nearly the entire population of starry campion in all of New England is supported by the corridor's floodplain forest.
- At least 25 species of finfish are present in Salmon Brook and 30 species in the lower Farmington River. The Salmon Brook supports an exceptional recreational fishery starring native brown and brook trout. Migratory fish such as American shad, blueback herring, alewife, American eel, and Atlantic salmon have excellent spawning habitat in the lower Farmington corridor.
- Salmon Brook exhibits a basin-wide distribution of high-quality fish communities which is rare in Connecticut.
- The mouth of the Farmington River where it meets the Connecticut River is the most diverse and one of the most important areas within New England in terms of fish resources. All 12 of the diadromous fish species thought to be present in the state are believed to be present at this location.

The many vernal pools of the glacial lake plains provide critical breeding habitat for amphibians, and are very important in maintaining the numbers and diversity of frogs and salamanders that are significant components of the corridor's biological community. The silt of glacial lake plain is also fertile, and thus allowed for the extensive development of agriculture in the lower valley. The resulting large contiguous cleared areas now support outstanding *grassland communities*. Their resident bird populations include the Bobolink and the Eastern Meadowlark, members of a suite of grassland species that are generally in decline statewide.

The wet meadows of the Alluvial Floodplain Ecoregion support the largest reported New England population of the state-listed Davis Sedge. Also, within this ecoregion are the floodplain/levee forests which harbor an especially rich resource of state-listed plant species including the New England grape, Davis sedge, Virginia waterleaf, and starry campion. Levees and floodplain forest also provide habitat for bald eagles and other

fish-dependent raptors such as the state listed northern harrier and osprey.

Overall, the combination of natural communities and their associated species make up a biologically diverse ecosystem characterized by an abundance and diversity of species including numerous rare species. In 2005 the Farmington Valley was highlighted in the book, *Nature-Friendly Communities*, recognizing the area for exceptional biodiversity and wildlife habitat and for the success of the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project.

Cultural Landscape

The cultural landscape of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook includes both American Indian and post-contact resources recognized as nationally and regionally significant. Initial human occupation of the area along the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook dates back to the end of the Pleistocene about 11,000 years ago, and archaeologists have recovered artifacts from at least 103 sites

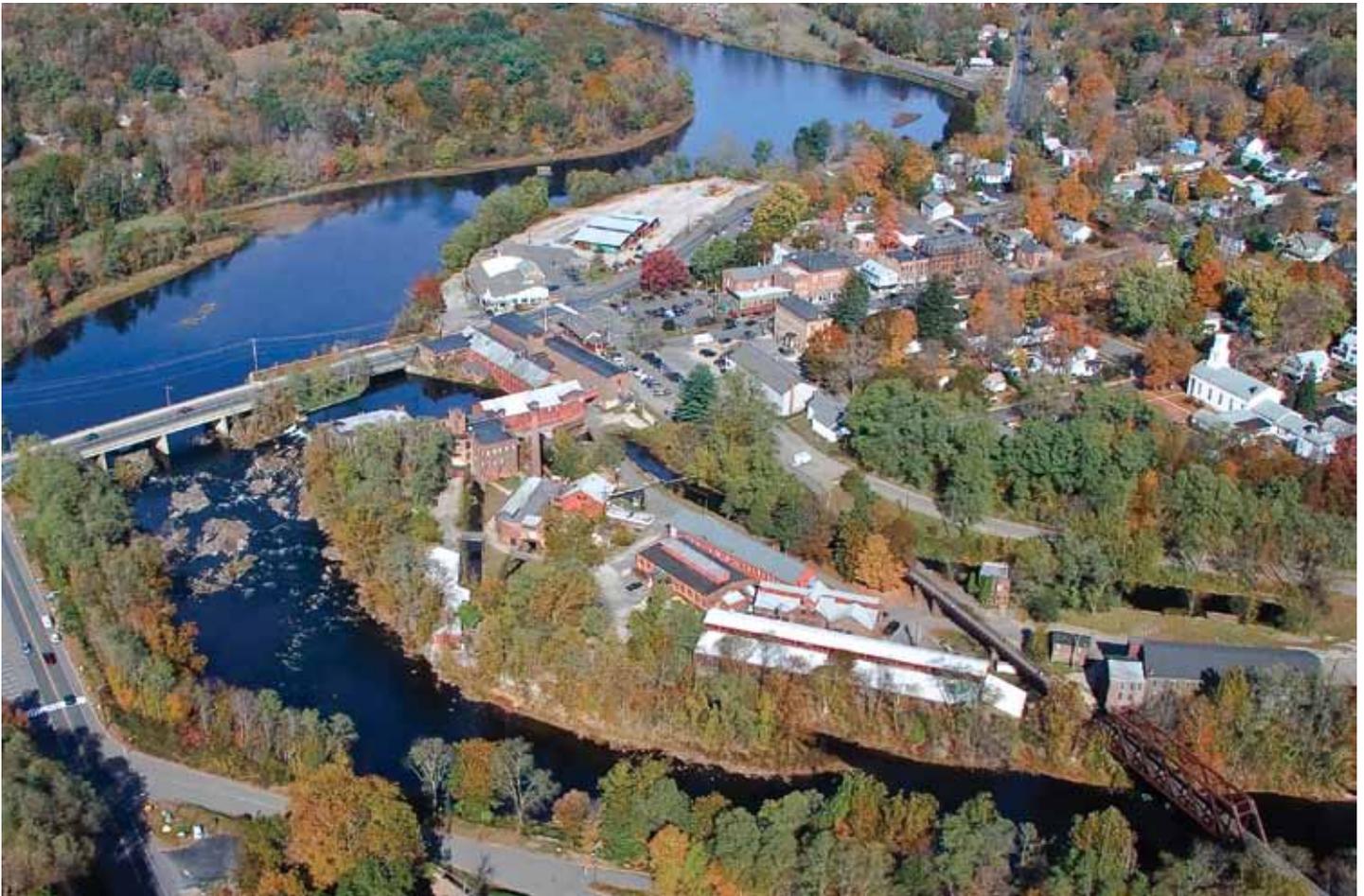
Archaeological dig Photo: Ken Feder



List of National Register Historic Districts and Historic Places within the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Study Area

- Avon Congregational Church
- Broad Street Green Historic District (Windsor)
- Collinsville Historic District
- Drake Hill Road Bridge (Simsbury)
- East Weatogue Historic District
- Ensign Bickford & Co. Fuse Factory (Historic American Engineering Record)
- Farmington Canal (1828-1848) Massachusetts border to New Haven- extended to Northampton in 1835
- Granby Center Historic District
- Heublein Tower
- John Humphrey House (115 East Weatogue Street)
- Judah Holcomb House (Granby)
- Palisado Avenue Historic District (Windsor)
- Simsbury Center Historic District
- Simsbury Railroad Depot
- Tariffville Historic District (includes the Hartford Carpet Company)
- Terry's Plain Historic District
- Windsor River Railroad Bridge

Collinsville Photo: Tom Cameron



...the Farmington Canal represented the height of engineering in its time, and upon completion it was the longest canal in New England.

along the river and its tributaries. There are sites in the Study Area corridor of long-term, continuous, or repeated human occupation. The *Archaeological Assessment of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook* identifies 11 sites that meet the National Register Criteria as nationally significant. For example the Lewis-Walpole Site located at the confluence of the Farmington and Pequabuck Rivers is a unique, nationally significant site of continuous human occupation. This site is also one of the most important in all of southern New England. Also, Indian Hill is also a nationally significant site, located in Bloomfield. It is an ancient settlement that was situated to take advantage of the anadromous fish resources of the Tariffville Gorge. The 103 sites could be recognized as a nationally significant district or region. In aggregate, the identified archaeological sites reflect a pattern of ancient settlement location along these watercourses, seasonal movement and change in landscape through time. The river and brook were clearly important to the existence of these early settlements as source of water, food, and transportation routes.

By the nineteenth century, signs of traditional Native American life were difficult to locate in the Study Area landscape because colonists, immigrants, and their descendants had become established in the area. Significant historical themes exhibited in the Lower Farmington Valley for the post-contact period include early colonial New England settlement patterns, nineteenth century industrialism, and the rise of industrial agriculture as exemplified by tobacco farming. Each of these historical developments introduced new populations of immigrants, whether settlers or migrant laborers, onto the landscape. For example, Irish immigrant laborers made up a large part of the workforce that built the Farmington Canal.

Connecticut's early settlements were based upon English agricultural villages. Rather than individual farms, settlers built their homes in clusters surrounded by the outlying fields and farms, and in this case along the Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Several historic districts along the Farmington River reflect this pattern. These historic districts include hundreds of rural and urban properties that are outstanding examples of historic architectural styles from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

In July, 1899, as part of the first national soil survey, the Secretary of Agriculture authorized the examination of a section of the Connecticut River Valley, including the lower Farmington River as a central feature, and found that the region's sandy, rich, and well drained soils along the river were ideally suited for raising tobacco. Tobacco farming in the Farmington Valley is historically and culturally significant due to the important role the crop played in the economic and demographic development of the state and for the international recognition it gained as an exceptional agricultural product. Numerous National Register nomination forms documenting the region note sites of tobacco cultivation. First grown and used by the region's native peoples, colonists grew and even exported tobacco by the early eighteenth century. The profound growth of the tobacco industry in response to the commercialization of cigar manufacturing through the 1800s changed the Farmington Valley landscape, not only with regard to the types of crops sown in its fertile soil, but also in respect to the architectural landscape.

Some of the best examples of the manufacturing that secured Connecticut's role in the nation's economic history were located along the lower Farmington River to harness the river's energy. Agricultural settlements used the river's waterpower for gristmills, sawmills, and fulling mills, and entrepreneurs established waterpower industries and factories all along the river and its tributaries. The National Register-listed Historic Districts of Unionville, Tariffville, and Collinsville and the Avon Center Historic District have the most significant surviving assemblages of historic buildings. These reflect the river's small-scale rural industrial and manufacturing heritage, and also include examples of workers housing and industrial architecture of the late nineteenth century. For example, the Collins Company, for which Collinsville is named, manufactured sharp edged tools beginning in the 1820s, developing a global market that lasted into the 1960s. The Upper Collinsville Dam and surviving mill complexes form the centerpiece of the National Register-listed Collinsville Historic District which also includes surviving worker housing, stores, and other associated infrastructure from the nineteenth-and-twentieth century. The Farmington Canal was built to provide an

Some key findings on the status of Cultural Landscape Resources in the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook:

Nationally and Regionally Significant Archaeological Record, Settlement Patterns, Industrial and Economic Development, Abolitionism and the Underground Railroad and the Tobacco Valley

Nationally and Regionally Significant Archaeological Record:

- Nationally significant archaeological sites associated with the river, including the Indian Hill site and the Lewis-Walpole site.
- Over 100 prehistoric archaeological sites discovered to date in lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridors.
- Continuously occupied human settlement for up to 11,000 years.

Settlement Patterns/Industrial and Economic Development:

- The archaeological resources and some of the structures along the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, as described in the Cultural Landscape description, are Outstandingly Remarkable Values because they are exceptional examples of Connecticut's and the New England region's ethnic, cultural, and economic development.
- Farmington Canal represented the height of engineering in its time, and upon completion it was the longest canal in New England.
- Historically river-dependent communities such as Windsor, the first English settlement in Connecticut and the National Register-listed Historic Districts of Unionville, Tariffville, and Collinsville, and the Avon Center Historic District have significant surviving Outstanding Resource Values reflecting the river's agricultural, industrial and manufacturing heritage.

Underground Railroad:

- Cluster of Underground Railroad sites with the Town of Farmington know as the "Grand Central Station" of the Underground Railroad.

Tobacco Valley:

- Nationally noted prime agricultural soils have supported agriculture for over 11,000 years.
 - Tobacco farming of historical and cultural significance due to the important role the crop played in the economic and demographic development of the state and for the international recognition it gained as an exceptional agricultural product.
-

Tariffville Gorge Triple Crown Race Photo: Bill Duncan



effective shipping route on the west side of the Traprock Ridge for goods from the interior of CT headed to New Haven and then on to larger ports such as New York City by ship. For example, with two canal basins, the town of Avon shipped a number of agricultural products, such as cheese and lumber to New Haven via the canal. Following the completion of construction of the Farmington Canal in 1829, the region's economy expanded to include more small-scale manufacturing and eventually commercial and industrial development in the towns of the Study Area. In both its conception as an economic venture and in its technological design, the



Photo: Tom Cameron

Farmington Canal reflects early nineteenth century movements in America to stimulate regional economic growth. Engineered by Benjamin Wright, chief engineer of the Erie Canal, the Farmington Canal represented the height of engineering in its time, and upon completion it was the longest canal in New England.

Because the Farmington River Valley communities had natural resources that allowed for: 1.) agricultural development, 2.) small manufacturing industries, and 3.) had developed infrastructure for commerce, and transportation, it was a thoroughfare for goods, services, and people. Because of these aspects of the area, as well as local anti-slavery sentiments, the Farmington River Valley supported the movement of runaway slaves escaping to the North. Some Farmington homes likely served as Underground Railroad stations. Farmington, then a largely agricultural community, served as a hub for various Underground Railroad routes and abolitionist activism. The town's location

and concentration of abolitionists made it a highly trafficked segment of a larger migratory pattern for fugitive slaves, and the town has been referred to as the “Grand Central Station” of the Underground Railroad. There is little documentation of the actual routes and homes that were used as part of the Underground Railroad due to the historic need for concealment of these details for the protection of fugitive slaves and residents of Farmington. The stations there would guide people along the Farmington River or nearby roads through Hartford, Bloomfield, or Avon, then to Simsbury and Granby. There is very little evidence that participants used the Farmington River itself for travel. However this cluster of sites represents a physical network of properties across a shared cultural landscape, one that lay adjacent to the river and owed its development as part of the Underground Railroad to the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing opportunities located there that the river supported.

Some key findings on the status of Recreational Resources in the Farmington and Salmon Brook:

- The Tariffville Gorge provides a premier whitewater paddling destination and has been the location for world class paddling completion. It is one of very few rivers in the east where there are year-round paddling opportunities.
 - There is a broad range of boating activities—from flat-water to mild moving waters to sections of class II and III white water for experienced paddlers. It is easy for people to take advantage of these activities, since there are public access points and parks within every Study Town.
 - Regionally significant opportunities for fishing in the lower Farmington River.
 - The clean cold-water trout fisheries of the Salmon Brook provide some of the most outstanding opportunities for angling anywhere in Connecticut.
 - A conservative estimate of the number of recreational visits to the streams from mid-May to mid-September is over 124,000 per year.
 - There is an extensive network of trail systems within the study area including six State of CT officially designated greenways that follow the watercourses: Farmington River Trail, Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway, Metacomet Ridge System, Blue Blazed Trail system, the Shade Swamp Sanctuary, and the West Mountain Trails. The Salmon Brook corridor was recently officially designated as part of the state greenway system.
 - Exceptional birding opportunities exist because the State of Connecticut overlaps the southern boundary of northern species and the northern boundary of southern species, so species abundance is unusually high. The river corridor provides good nesting habitat and is a migration corridor as part of the Atlantic flyway.
-

Recreation

The Farmington River and Salmon Brook provide corridors with exceptional recreational opportunities. The variety of boating, fishing, and water-based recreational activities is unique regionally because of the consistent year-round flows, clean water, and quality of the resources. Boating on the watercourses can be experienced by people of many skill levels due to the diversity of paddling opportunities ranging from flat-water to Class II and III for experienced paddlers. The high quality fisheries of the Farmington and Salmon Brook provide for exceptional fishing. Fishing is a popular recreational pursuit due to the diversity of fishing options and the excellent water quality. Of particular note are the fishing opportunities of the Salmon Brook, which has an abundance of native brown and brook trout and very few warm water species. Trout thrive in cold-water environments, and Salmon Brook offers vegetated riparian buffers that provide shade and maintain water temperatures. It is considered to be one of the best fishing streams of New England. People are easily able to take advantage of these activities since there are many public access points to the streams.

While the majority of recreational users are local residents, the Tariffville Gorge attracts kayakers both regionally and nationally. The Gorge is a spectacular rapid that can be run year-round. There are very few rivers in New England and along the east coast where running world-class white water throughout the summer months is possible. It has been the location of National and Olympic Trials, New England Championship competitions, National Canoe Poling competitions and New England Whitewater Triple-Crown Championships.

Though boating, fishing, and hiking/walking are popular activities, the range of recreational pursuits is quite varied. Based on the results of the *Economic and Use Study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook*, the river, the brook, and their corridors are highly valued by residents and recreational users who strongly support a Wild and Scenic River designation as a way to further river protection. Survey respondents' support is based on the sense of place that the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook provide, and on the diverse recreational options which the watercourses offer.

Several outstanding trail systems are within the study area including six State of Connecticut officially designated greenways: Farmington River Trail, Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway, Metacomet Ridge System, Blue Blazed Trail system, the Shade Swamp Sanctuary, and the West Mountain Trails in Simsbury. The Salmon Brook system was the most recently designated greenway to be officially included by the State of Connecticut. Not surprisingly, part of what makes each unique is their connection to other Outstanding Resource Values. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the Farmington River Trail are two popular multi-use "Rails-to-Trails" paths that pass through seven of the ten study towns (Burlington, Canton, Farmington, Avon, Simsbury, East Granby, and Granby). The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail has been designated a Community Millennium Trail under the Federal Millennium Trails Initiative based on its special value to the communities it passes through. The Farmington River Trail is an eighteen-mile loop trail that links to the Heritage Trail at points in Farmington and Simsbury. For roughly half its length the trail runs directly alongside the river. Since both trails are built along abandoned rail corridors and canal towpaths, each passes through a rich cultural landscape of historic buildings, canal locks, iron bridges, stone arches, and other landmarks.

With the recent designation of the New England Trail, a National Scenic Trail that follows the traprock ridge through five of the ten study towns, there is the potential for even more regional and national attention on the recreational use of the corridor, and in particular where the trail accesses the Tariffville Gorge. Already successful projects have increased and linked trails, greenways, and the watercourses for increased connectivity of the recreational use network.

3.D. Classification

The river's preliminary classification is based on the river and brook being accessible by road, having some development along their shorelines, and having undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. The lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are accessible and visible from roadways and via river crossings. State Route 10 is the predominant north-south artery through the



**View of the Tariffville Gorge
from the New England
National Scenic Trail**

Photo: Paula Jones

Study Area that provides access to both the Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Route 10 runs parallel to the Farmington River and some segments of the Salmon Brook in the towns of Avon, Simsbury, and Granby. State Route 44 runs east-west through the Study Towns and crosses the Farmington River in the towns of Canton and Avon. Interstate 91 crosses the river in Windsor.

The broad range of land uses bordering the watercourses is representative of a New England area settled over a period of several hundred years. Remnants of the agrarian past and historic industries that were powered by the Farmington River are evident today. Though the watercourses are visible and accessible by foot and car, approximately 28% of lands bordering the watercourses are preserved in open space. Open space and recreational land comprise the largest percentage of land use along the river, followed by 22% in residential land, 12% mixed use and 9% in agricultural use and 9% currently undeveloped. There are a series of historic dams and one active impoundment on the watercourses.

According to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act the segments of the Farmington and Salmon Brook that are found eligible for designation best meet the criteria for classification as ‘**recreational**’.

3.E. Conclusions on Eligibility and Classification

Approximately 63.4 miles of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation based on free-flowing conditions and the presence of Outstandingly Remarkable Values that include **Geology, Water Quality, Biological Diversity, Cultural Landscape, and Recreation**. The preliminary classification for all eligible river segments is “**recreational**.” The portion of the Lower Farmington River impacted by the Rainbow Dam, reservoir, and tailrace diversion are not found eligible for designation due to the absence of free-flowing character.

Chapter 4: Suitability Findings And Management Context

This chapter presents the study findings relative to Section 4(a) “. . .On the suitability or non-suitability for addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system.” The suitability of the river for designation is directly related to existing and future river management which will also be discussed in this chapter.

4.A. Principle Factors of Suitability

The Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council developed the following criteria as a general guide to exploring the suitability or non-suitability of river segments for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A suitability analysis is designed to answer the following questions:

1. Should the river’s free-flowing character, water quality, and Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) be protected, or are one or more other uses [e.g., issuance of a hydro license] important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the river’s free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected through designation? Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor? In answering these questions, the benefits and impacts of Wild and Scenic Rivers designation must be evaluated and alternative protection methods considered.
3. Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any nonfederal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?”

Rivers such as the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook that flow through predominantly private lands are best considered following the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Study and potential designation model. For these rivers the National Park Service has developed and refined additional factors upon which suitability findings should be made:

1. The adequacy of existing protection measures to conserve the river’s outstanding resources without the need for federal land acquisition or federal land management.
2. Whether there is an existing or proposed management framework that will bring the key river interests together to work toward

the ongoing protection of the river.

3. The strength of local support for river protection and national designation.
4. The effects of designation on uses of the land, water base, and resources associated with the river, the neighboring communities, etc.

Existing Protections

There are strong protections in place for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. These protections include local, state, and federal statutes and regulations that directly protect the watercourses and adjacent lands. The free-flowing condition of the lower Farmington River is protected through a series of laws and agreements. There are established local watershed associations, land trusts, and other non-governmental and governmental supporting organizations that have strong interest in protecting the outstanding resources and protecting land. Finally there is strong local and regional citizen recognition of the important resources and appreciation of the watercourses. Together with a locally administered management plan, these existing protections are found to meet the suitability criteria for the designated segments that are recommended for Wild and Scenic River designation.

A summary of existing protections follows.

4.B.1 Regulatory Protections

In order to identify the regulations, policies, and plans that favor protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural resources in the watercourses, the Study Committee contracted the law firm of Robinson & Cole to inventory and assess such regulations and policies enacted in the ten river corridor towns. The study addressed each town’s municipal plan and regulations as they relate to the protection and enhancement of the ORVs in the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook. Consult the Management

Plan Appendices for the *Municipal Plan and Regulation Review (Review)*, as well as a summary of state and federal programs contributing to the protection of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook.

The Study Committee concluded that the current combination of local, state, and federal regulations, protected lands, and physical constraints to development (i.e. floodplains, wetlands etc.) provide a protection scheme for the ORVs that is adequate and makes federal condemnation of lands unnecessary and designation possible for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. In support of this conclusion, important local, state, and federal protections were identified. These are briefly described below.

Local

All ten towns have comprehensive local land use regulations. Each town has adopted a set of basic regulations designed to protect the natural, cultural, and historic features of the community.

Some of the key local protections include:

Local Wetlands Commissions: Connecticut State Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (sections 22a-36 through 22a-45 of the CT General Statutes) sets broad authority to regulate wetlands through local municipal watercourse commissions and state regulatory process. Municipal Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commissions regulate for activities in upland review areas that would likely impact wetland or watercourse function. Reviews in upland areas may include assessing and regulating impacts from a proposed activity on hydrologic, water quality and ecological functions. All of the ten towns have an upland review area of at least 100 feet upland of the wetland or stream; some towns have a greater regulated upland review area. This is the single most important local regulatory authority in place, and indicates a consistent and strong willingness among the ten river towns to protect water resources.

State Enabling Legislation at the Local Level: The state has comprehensive enabling

Wild and Scenic volunteers remove invasive plants along Farmington River

Photo: Joyce Kennedy



legislation governing the use of land. It grants authority to towns to adopt regulations that effectively implement legislation at the local level. Towns therefore have the independence to choose regulatory tools to gain greater resource protection and have the flexibility to implement them.

Subdivision Regulations: A significant number of the towns allow for cluster and open space residential subdivisions that allow for greater protection of open space and/or particular natural features on a site. Modification of traditional subdivision regulations for development is an example of how the towns are using local regulations to protect outstanding resources.

Examples of strong local regulations and policies utilized by towns in the river corridor:

Avon: Ridgeline Protection Overlay Zone, protection of water recharge areas through the use of landscaped buffers and setbacks

Bloomfield: Maintain natural drainage systems, promote preservation and restoration of vegetative buffers

Burlington: Emphasis on retention of vegetation and existing trees

Canton: Farmington River Protection Overlay District, innovative stormwater management techniques for commercial and industrial developments

East Granby: Best management practices for maintaining riparian buffers and to preserve and maintain existing vegetation

Farmington: Plan of Conservation and Development supports: the Wild and Scenic designation, adoption of a river overlay zone, and focuses on preservation and improvement of surface watersheds and groundwater levels and water quality

Granby: Retention of vegetative buffers and ground coverage, preservation of trees

Hartland: Farmington River Protection Overlay District, support of designation in Plan of Conservation and Development

Simsbury: Protect drainage systems and prohibit development within 50 feet of watercourse, storage of pesticides, fertilizers, and manure prohibited within 100 feet of any watercourse

Windsor: Transfer of development rights program and concentrated effort to protect open space along Farmington River

The Review considered town regulations and plans enacted before July 2008. Though not documented in this report, towns have made regulatory and plan revisions that have further strengthened ORV protections since that time.

State

Many state statutes contribute to the protection of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. State programs regulate non-agricultural activities within or near wetlands and watercourses. Five of the most important state regulations protecting the watercourses are:

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act: (described in the local regulation summary above)

Water Diversion Policy Act: Protects the instream flow of the watercourses by prohibiting any new dam or diversion greater than 50,000 gallons per day without the issuance of a permit.

Aquifer Protection Regulations: Offers the watercourses some protection from non-point source pollution by requiring towns to adopt protective land use regulation in zones of designated water supply aquifers.

Connecticut Water Pollution Control: Statutes protect the streams and ground water quality from point-source pollution inputs.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act: Protects the streams from sedimentation impacts associated with construction and new developments.

Federal

There are multiple federal regulations that offer protection for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The *Clean Water Act* (CWA) provides substantial protection for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook's water quality by restricting all discharges into the river. The CWA was created to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's surface water. It requires states to adopt surface *Water Quality Standards* and an *Anti-degradation Policy* and establishes the *National Pollution Discharge Elimination System*, administered by the State of CT, which requires all entities to obtain a discharge permit from the appropriate authority. In addition, the *Section 404 Permit* requires approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for any project that would discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S.

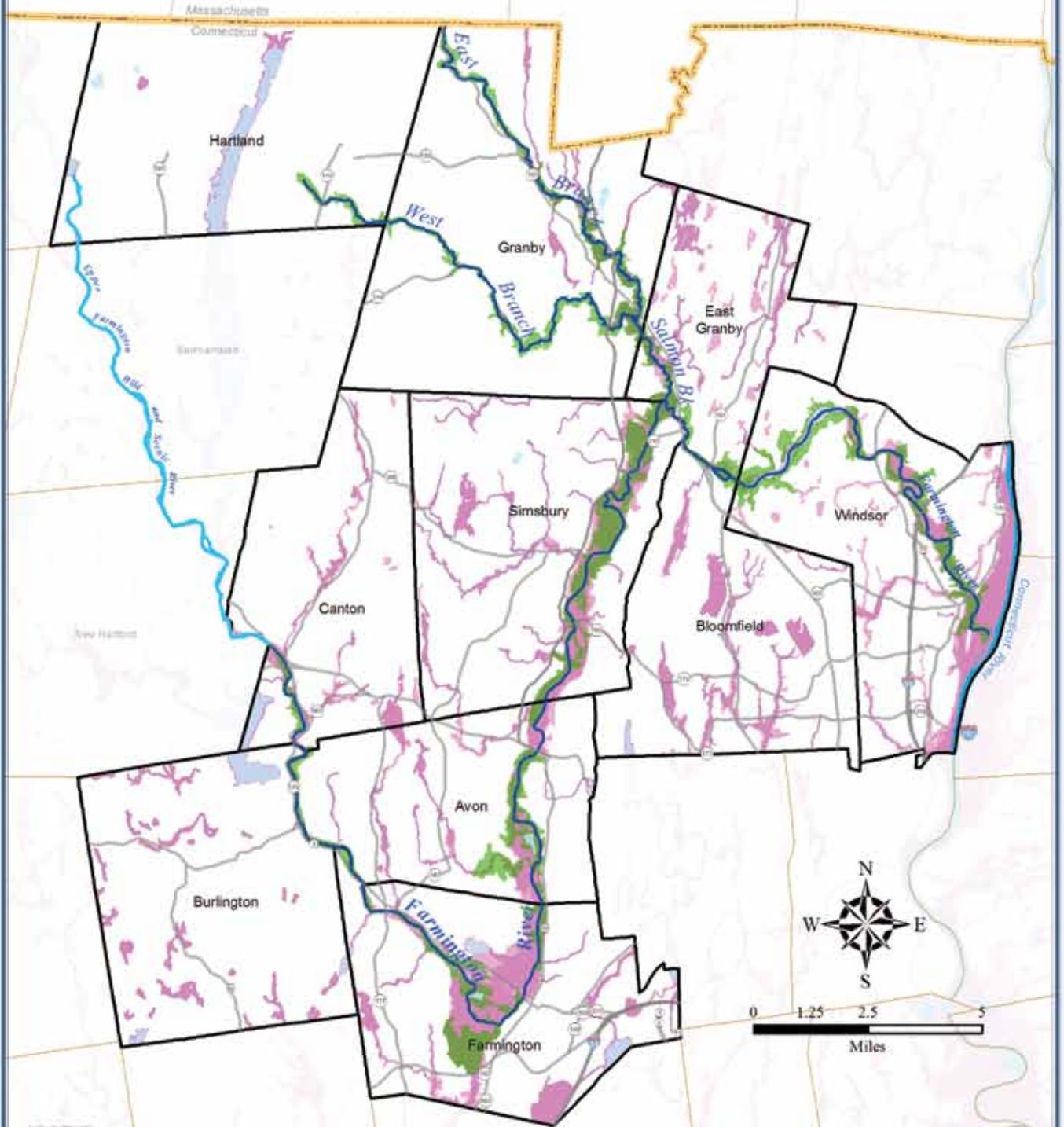
Many state statutes contribute to the protection of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values.



LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER / SALMON BROOK

Wild and Scenic Study

Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington,
Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor
Connecticut



LEGEND

- Riparian Buffers
- 100 Year Flood Zone
- 500 Year Flood Zone
- Upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River

FIGURE 7 Floodplains and Riparian Buffers

Data Sources & Notes: DEP; FEMA; CLEAR; TeleAtlas (DPS), FRWA. Prepared by J. Bolton, FRWA: 07/11

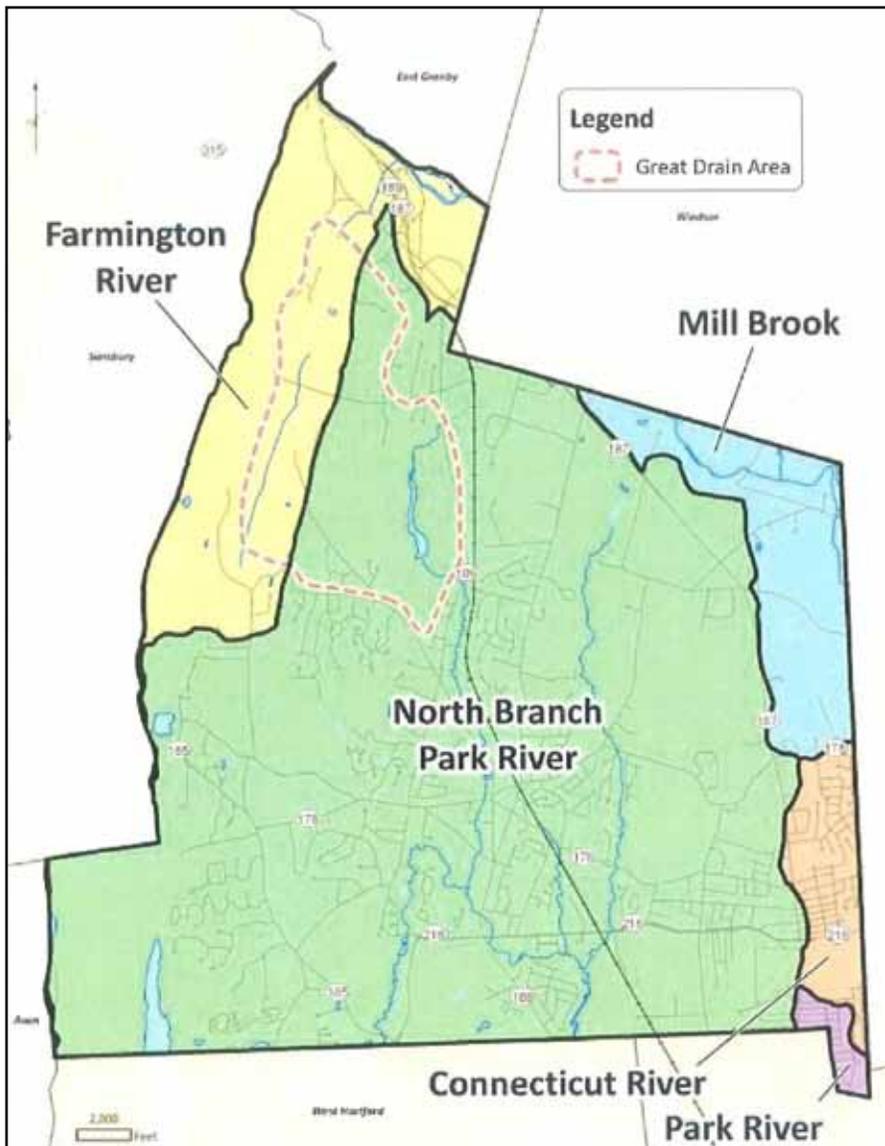


Figure 8: The Great Drain

From the Town of Bloomfield Plan of Conservation and Development: The Great Drain or the Griffin Brook Watershed, which runs adjacent to the Talcott Mountain Ridge forms a valuable ecological system in Bloomfield together with the Ridge. The Great Drain is a superior red maple swamp because its soil is enriched by dissolved calcium that leaches out of the Ridge rock. As such, it is unusual for central Connecticut. The soil of the Great Drain supports abundant and diverse vegetation in a complete vertical stratification, which in turn supports diverse wildlife—amphibians, mammals and birds. In fact, over 100 species of bird have been sighted in the Great Drain and over forty are known to nest there. In addition, the Great Drain traps water run-off from the Ridge and has been known to hold up to five feet of water during the early spring. Protecting it means controlling flooding to the east of the Great Drain. Finally, the wetland plant species in the Great Drain neutralize pollutants, which is especially important as the water in the Great Drain flows northwards, and eventually into the Farmington River. Any ridgeline protection measures taken by the Town should include the Great Drain.

The *National Flood Insurance Act* established the *National Flood Insurance Program* (NFIP) to protect against flood losses. States can require more stringent measures. The CT DEP is the designated coordinating agency that recently adopted new requirements that establish a higher regulatory standard that is more protective of floodplains. In addition NFIP encourages communities to engage in better floodplain management and also allow municipalities to adopt more restrictive ordinances than the Federal government. All ten towns of the Wild and Scenic Study Area engage in some form of flood plain management through their town regulations and policies.

Additionally, the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) and the *Rivers and Harbors Act* provide some protection to the streams.

The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* provides the strongest protection available for the watercourses by protecting designated rivers from any federally assisted or licensed water resource development project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the river's resources.

Further description of these programs is available in the Management Plan.

In summary, there is a substantial set of local, state and federal regulations that are protective of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook and make the watercourses suitable for Wild and Scenic designation within the Partnership system of management.

4.B.2 Open Space and Land Conservation

In total, the ten towns, land trusts, and the state have protected about 27% of the lands within one quarter mile of the 70 miles of river frontage along the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. There are ongoing significant efforts to protect open space along the watercourses to protect water quality, biodiversity, and corridors for recreational use. An additional 9% of the lands within the study corridor are comprised of agricultural uses. Some of these farmlands are permanently protected by conservation easements. Based on the results of a recent survey conducted by the Wild and Scenic Study Committee, approximately 12% of the open space lands in the corridor are held by the local land trusts. There are noteworthy examples of land preservation efforts by area land trusts even during this time of economic

hardship. Both the towns and land trusts have demonstrated their commitment to protecting land along the watercourses. The Study Towns are actively pursuing updated regulations and establishing policies that maintain open space and establish corridors for recreation along the river and brook.

4.B.3 Other Supporting Programs

Watershed Associations

Farmington River Watershed Association

(FRWA): The FRWA has been committed to the protection and preservation of the Farmington River and its tributaries (such as the Salmon Brook) for over 50 years. Along with state and non-profit partners FRWA has played a key role in contributing to the Wild and Scenic Study as well as having taken the lead role in organizing the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Study which laid the groundwork for the Study. FRWA has had a central role in protecting the ORVs, water quality and free-flowing character of the river.

Salmon Brook Watershed Association

(SBWA): The SBWA partners with the DEP to monitor and document the excellent water quality of the Salmon Brook and has worked to educate stream front residents on how to protect water quality through land management practices on property adjacent to the brook. They have been active participants in the Wild and Scenic Study process.

Pequabuck River Watershed Association

(PRWA): The Pequabuck River is a major tributary to the Farmington River. It has water quality issues due to urbanized land uses in this basin. A representative from PRWA stepped up to join the Wild and Scenic Study Committee after the commencement of the study and will become a core member of the Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee. This partnership is

significant in terms of the protection of water quality in the lower Farmington River because the Pequabuck River enters the Farmington River in the Town of Farmington.

Local Land Trusts

Land trusts within the ten towns have been supporters of the Wild and Scenic Study effort through participation of their members on the Study Committee as town representatives and at the Land Use Leadership Alliance Workshops. All ten land trusts also took part in the land trust integration survey conducted by the Management and Protection Sub-committee and wrote letters of endorsement for the designation. It is expected that land trusts will be active participants on the Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee. In addition to actively seeking out and protecting important land in the towns, the land trusts play a significant role in community outreach, education and land stewardship activities.

Combined, the ten local land trusts (Avon Land Trust, Burlington Land Trust, Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc., East Granby Land Trust, Farmington Land Trust, Granby Land Trust, Hartland Land Trust, Simsbury Land Trust, Inc., Windsor Land Trust and Wintonbury Land Trust (Bloomfield)) protect approximately 6000 acres of land in the Wild and Scenic Study Towns, with about 700 of those acres within one quarter mile of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The Hartland Land Trust was recently organized as a result of seed funding through the existing upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Partnership Program.

Non-regulatory State Programs

The State of Connecticut has been active in attempting to restore migrating fish populations to the watercourses. The State played a key role in design, funding and construction of the Rainbow Dam fish ladder as well as providing ongoing monitoring and maintenance support. The State has been instrumental in the design of improved fish passage for the Spoonville Dam and Smith-Gristmill Dam. There is a strong commitment from the state as a partner (two CT DEP representatives currently serve on the Study Committee) on both the Study Committee and future Wild and Scenic Committee.

Farmington River paddling opportunities for many skill levels

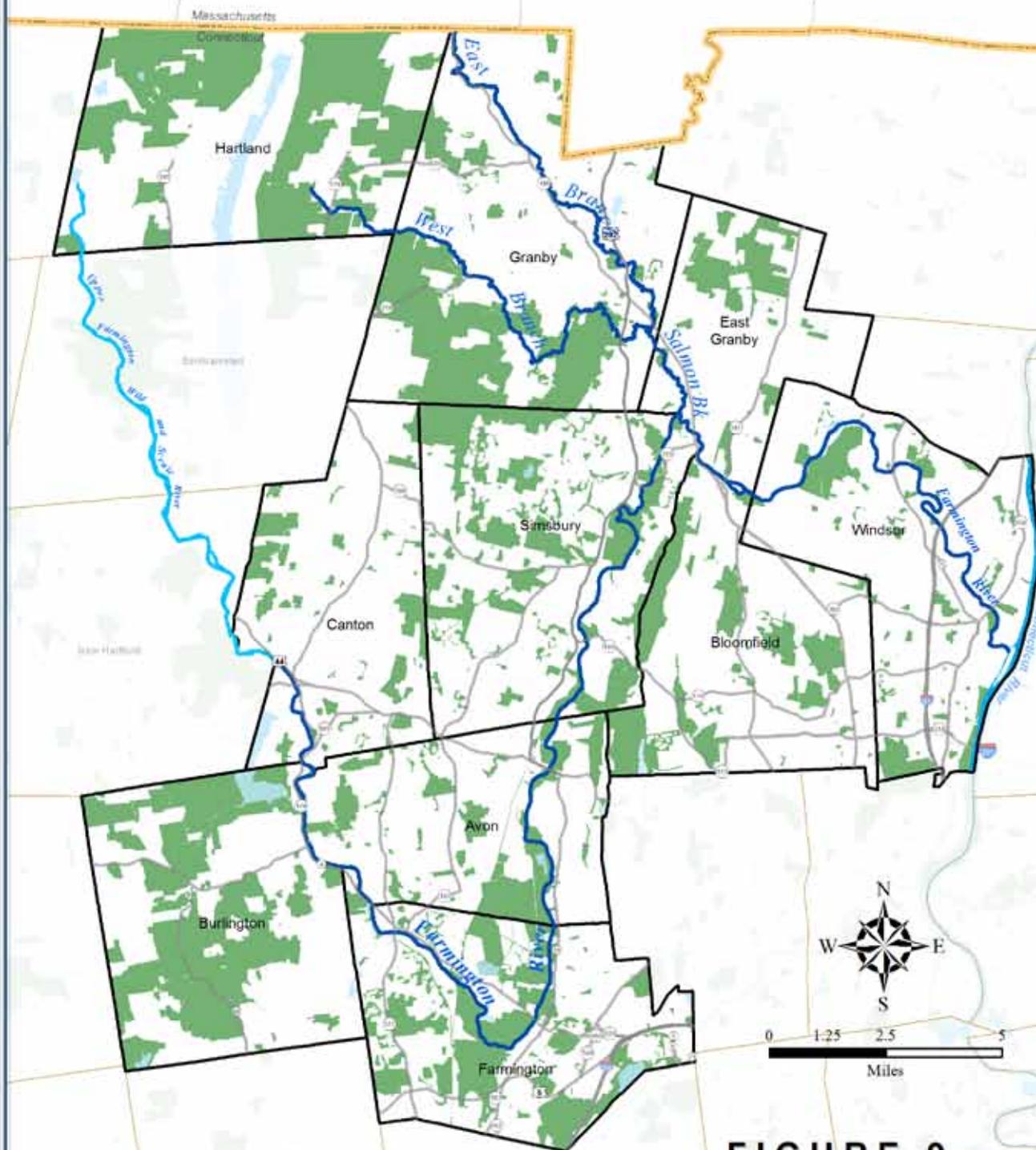




LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER / SALMON BROOK

Wild and Scenic Study

Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington,
Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor
Connecticut



LEGEND

- Open Space / Parks / Recreation Properties
- Upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River

FIGURE 9
Open Space, Parks,
and Recreation
Properties

Data Sources & Notes: DEP; CCRPA; CRCOG; OPM; TeleAtlas (DPS), FRWA. Prepared by J. Bolton, FRWA; 07/11

Each of the ten towns included in the Study area formally endorsed the Management Plan through votes of their boards of selectman or town councils.

4.C. Management Framework

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan (June 2011), together with the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (FSWS) that would be charged with its implementation, have been specifically developed to ensure that an adequate and successful management framework exists to meet the purposes of the Wild and Scenic River designation. This type of management framework has proven to be a successful approach in providing management, coordination, and implementation on the 12 other Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Management Plan

Development of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan (Management Plan) was of central importance to the Study Committee, and the final, completed Management Plan is available as a companion document to this Study Report. The Management Plan is a guidance document for protection and enhancement of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook Study area. It details the management framework and protection strategies and standards for identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), free-flowing conditions, and water quality. Each of the ten towns included in the Study area formally endorsed the Management Plan through votes of their boards of selectman or town councils. Land use commissions and local organizations have endorsed the Plan as well. The State of Connecticut legislature passed a law supporting designation and directs the CT DEP to cooperate with the implementation of the Management Plan. Endorsement of the Management Plan by the partners substantiates suitability for designation by demonstrating local commitment to river conservation if the designation occurs.

Though existing protections are deemed adequate, it is important to ensure optimal protection of ORVs, water quality, and free-flowing character over time due to threats and a changing environment. To do so, the Study Committee identified a protection goal for each ORV, identified threats and management issues that could degrade ORV quality, noted potential gaps between these threats and *existing* protections, and recommended tools or techniques for improving protection and enhancement of the ORVs at the local level. This analysis and

the protection strategies developed for the Management Plan could potentially serve as a tool to protect and enhance the values of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook whether or not Wild and Scenic designation is achieved.

The Management Plan calls for the creation of a Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (FSWS) charged with coordinating and overseeing its implementation. As with the upper Farmington River and the other designated Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, it is envisioned that the FSWS would lead the Management Plan implementation process in the event of a Wild and Scenic designation. Each of the key local and state entities that would be the core membership of the FSWS has endorsed its creation through the Management Plan. These entities include: the ten towns bordering the river segments, the Farmington River and Salmon Brook Watershed Associations, the Pequabuck River Watershed Association (an important tributary), Stanley Black & Decker, the CT Department of Environmental Protection and the National Park Service. It will be vital for the FSWS to develop and maintain local and regional partnerships with towns and with other conservation organizations to achieve short and long-range Management Plan goals. It would also be the FSWS's responsibility to monitor the Outstandingly Remarkable Values, free-flowing character and water quality with respect to the degree they are protected, degraded or enhanced during implementation of the Plan.

The purpose of the FSWS is to lead and coordinate implementation of the Management Plan by:

- Bringing together on a regular basis various parties responsible for river management;
- Facilitating agreements, cooperation and coordination among them.
- Providing a focus and a forum for all river interests to discuss and make recommendations regarding issues of concern.
- Assisting the National Park Service in implementation of the Wild and Scenic River designation and expenditure of potential federal funding for Management Plan implementation (subject to Wild and Scenic River Designation).



Town and state leaders and Study Committee Representatives gather for a canoe trip

- Assisting the National Park Service in the review of potentially adverse federal water resource development projects (subject to Wild and Scenic River Designation).

It would also be the responsibility of the FSWS to:

- Address river-related issues through cooperative resolution.
- Review and update the Management Plan.
- Promote public involvement and education.
- Promote river enhancement initiatives.
- Report to the member towns and organizations on the activities of the Committee.
- Prepare periodic status reports for the river communities.

4.D. Support for River Protection and National Wild and Scenic Designation

There was a high level of interest in the Wild and Scenic Study from the Study Committee, the study area towns and the public throughout the study process and this interest developed into widespread support for the designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as the Study progressed. The broad range of support from governing bodies, land use commissions, non-profit organizations and local citizens is described below.

4.E. Evidence of Support Study Committee

The Wild and Scenic Study Committee began meeting over four years ago to fulfill their mission of supporting the Study process through facilitating public involvement, guiding research on potential ORVs, development of the Management Plan and assessing local support for the designation. The high level of volunteer commitment displayed throughout the course of the study is commendable. The Study Committee has stated its intention to continue meeting until the river gains designation and then begin the transition to the Wild and Scenic Committee in preparation for the potential designation.

The Study Committee has indicated substantial interest and commitment to initiating implementation of actions outlined in the advisory Management Plan during the time prior to designation. In fact, the Committee has already participated in some local projects to further the goals of the Management Plan. The Study Committee supports the Environmentally Preferred Alternative presented in this Report, with all represented entities voting for this alternative with the exception of Stanley Black & Decker which expressed its support for the Partial Designation Alternative.

Local

During 2009 and 2010, the Avon Town Council, Bloomfield Town Council, Burlington Board of Selectmen, Canton Board of Selectmen, East Granby Board of Selectmen, Farmington Town Council, Granby Board of Selectmen, Hartland Board of Selectmen, Simsbury Board of Selectmen, and Windsor Town Council voted to endorse the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan and Wild and Scenic designation.

Land use commissions from the ten towns also voted to endorse the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan and Wild and Scenic designation as follows:

Avon: Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Natural Resources Commission

Bloomfield: Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee, Town Plan and Zoning Commission, Leisure Services Department

Burlington: Conservation Commission

Canton: Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

East Granby: Planning & Zoning Commission, Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission

Farmington: Town Plan & Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission

Granby: Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission

Hartland: Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission

Simsbury: Conservation Commission

Windsor: Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission

State of Connecticut

There was broad support and unanimous passage of Public Act No. 08-37, An Act Concerning Designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Act, which Governor Rell signed into law on May 7, 2008, conveys the state's

support for designation and directs the CT DEP to cooperate with the implementation of the Management Plan. This act endorsed Wild and Scenic designation and stated that "The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall cooperate with all relevant federal, state and local agencies to provide for such designation and to implement any management plan developed in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act." The DEP indicated their support of the designation and intention to continue as an active partner in protecting the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook.

A copy of this legislation can be found in Appendix 2

Non-governmental Organizations

Non-governmental organizations that indicated their support for the designation include:

- American Rivers
- Audubon Connecticut
- Avon Fish and Game Club
- Avon Land Trust

Rosedale Farm and Vineyard

Photo: Wanda Colman



NPS encouraged broad participation of local stakeholders in the study process and spent substantial time and effort considering and explaining the effects of the designation.

- Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce
- Bloomfield Greenway Study Committee
- Canton Historical Society, Inc.
- Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.
- Community Farm of Simsbury, Inc.
- Farmington Land Trust
- Farmington Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited
- Farmington Valley Visitors Association
- Granby Land Trust
- Hartland Historical Society
- Hartland Land Trust
- Hartland Lions Club
- Holcomb Farm
- Keep the Woods
- McLean Game Refuge
- New England Whitewater Triple Crown Championships
- Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
- Roaring Brook Nature Center
- Salmon Brook Historical Society
- Salmon Brook Watershed Association
- Simsbury Historical Society
- Simsbury Land Trust
- Tariffville Village Association
- The Burlington Land Trust
- The Simsbury Garden Club
- Town of Canton Collinsville Historic District Commission
- Wade's Farms
- Windsor Land Trust
- Wintonbury Historical Society
- Wintonbury Land Trust

Documentation of endorsements and support is found in Appendix 3

4.F. Effects of Designation

General Effects—Partnership Wild and Scenic River Model

NPS encouraged broad participation of local stakeholders in the study process and spent substantial time and effort considering and explaining the effects of the designation. In a general sense, the study stakeholders were well acquainted with the effects of Wild and Scenic designation based on the 15-year history of the upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic River. The two Study Towns of Canton and Hartland are also represented on the upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Committee. The upper Farmington and the other Partnership Wild and Scenic

Rivers, including the recent designation of the Eightmile River (also in CT), have established a model for designation and management which constitute a substantial track record for the practical and expected effects of a Wild and Scenic River designations in settings very similar to the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Study area. These case studies and examples were explored thoroughly with the affected communities and other stakeholders as a part of the study process. Common features of all of the existing Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (as noted in Chapter 1) include the following:

- No reliance on federal ownership of land in order to achieve the WSRA's goals of protecting and enhancing river values.
- Land use management is regulated through existing local and state authorities, the same as before a designation.
- Administration and implementation of a locally led Management Plan is accomplished through a broadly participatory management committee, convened for each river specifically for this purpose.
- Responsibility for managing and protecting river resources is shared between the local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners on the committee.
- Reliance on volunteerism as a key to success.
- No National Park Service Superintendent, law enforcement, or similar elements of traditional federally managed units of the National Park System.

In addition to a general exploration of the effects and track record of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers model, two designation alternatives were developed, and compared to a non-designation alternative in Chapter 5 (Environmental Assessment). Chapter 5 analyzes the likely effects of the designation alternatives on land and water resources, as well as socio-economic factors.

Specific Effects—Collinsville and Rainbow Dam Areas

The lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Study process included an in-depth examination of the effects of designation on river areas surrounding the Collinsville Dams and the river segments above and below Rainbow Dam and reservoir.

Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams

At the time the Wild and Scenic Study was authorized by Congress, the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams were FERC licensed for the reinstatement of hydropower. Since then, FERC issued an Order Terminating Licenses for the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dam projects on December 11, 2007 (FERC, 2007). The licenses have since expired on December 11, 2007 because hydropower project construction did not begin within the required FERC timetable. Upon expiration of the FERC licenses, the Town of Canton applied for, and was granted, a Preliminary Permit (# 13273) to study the potential for the Town to develop a municipal hydropower project. In addition, the Town explored the possibility of having the former license reinstated and transferred to the Town (an effort which stalled in late 2010). To date, the Collinsville Renewable Energy Promotion Act (H.R.1353 and S.715) has been re-filed in Congress in an attempt to accomplish this transfer. The Town continues to pursue its investigations under the Preliminary Permit, and intends to proceed with hydropower development if the project is found to be economically feasible. The Collinsville Dams are owned by the CT DEP, which is cooperating with the Town of Canton in its explorations. DEP has cited both the potential power generation from the facility and the development of fish passage in conjunction with the project as rationale for its support. The consensus of the Study Committee was likewise to support the Town of Canton's explorations. In addition, Congressman Chris Murphy's office has strongly supported the redevelopment effort. These factors, together with the high historic and recreational value of the upper Collinsville Dam (which make dam removal extremely unlikely) have led the NPS to find this river segment currently unsuitable for designation.

Local and state support for Wild and Scenic designation of the Collinsville river segments could be re-evaluated in the event that FERC licensing for hydropower generation is not deemed economical through the current Preliminary Permit feasibility study. Under this scenario the CT DEP could consider removal of the Lower Collinsville Dam and development of fish passage at the Upper Collinsville Dam. The NPS believes that such an outcome would be compatible with Wild

and Scenic River requirements and purposes, and would open the door to potential designation of the Collinsville river segment.

In summary the river segment affected by the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams is deemed **unsuitable** for designation at this time due to lack of support at the local, state, and federal (congressional) levels. This segment begins at 1.6 miles upstream of the Upper Collinsville Dam and extends .2 miles downstream of the Lower Collinsville Dam and is depicted on Eligibility and Suitability Map.

Lower Farmington River Segment that Includes Rainbow Dam

Consideration of boundaries upstream of Rainbow Dam

As noted in Chapter 3, best available data indicates that the impoundment created by Rainbow Dam likely extends upstream from the dam to a point somewhere below the Route 187 bridge under a range of normal flow conditions. Thus the NPS has chosen the 187 Bridge as the preferred Wild and Scenic segment boundary for this segment. However, a range of other segment endpoints in this vicinity could be chosen and justified. For example, Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) has indicated their interest in raising the flashboards at Rainbow up to a possible total height of 13 feet, which is seven feet above the current flashboard height. Such an action would impact the Tariffville Gorge by impacting the free-flowing conditions and increasing the size of the impoundment. Other potential points were considered as a part of Study discussions, but no consensus among the stakeholders was reached. The range of potential alternative endpoints is presented in Figure 10.

Figure 10: Potential Exclusion Boundaries Upstream of Rainbow Dam

Potential Wild and Scenic River Segment Boundary above Rainbow Reservoir	Description	Support	Issues	Comments
Windsor/East Granby/ Bloomfield Town Line	Riverine in appearance. Meets free-flowing definition. Clearly identifiable boundary. Rainbow Dam and Reservoir all within Town of Windsor according to SBD SEC filing.	Towns of Bloomfield and East Granby supportive of designating maximum river frontage.	SBD considers this boundary within the Rainbow Reservoir and potentially within future FERC project area.	Variation of the "full designation" alternative. Could overlap with upper end of Rainbow Reservoir. If used as WSR legislative boundary, consultation with FERC and potential legislative protection for Rainbow Dam should be considered.
Route 187 bridge	Based on the best available data, the Hydrologic Study identified the Route 187 bridge as likely upstream Rainbow Reservoir impoundment boundary. Riverine in appearance. Meets free-flowing definition. Clearly recognizable landmark as boundary. SBD original boundary request.	Towns of Bloomfield and East Granby supportive of designating maximum river frontage.	SBD considers this boundary within the potential influence of Rainbow Reservoir and potentially within future FERC project area.	Best match to available data relative to upstream extent of Rainbow Reservoir. Considered under the Environmentally Preferred Alternative B: Full Designation as Preferred Boundary. If used as WSR legislative boundary, consultation with FERC and potential legislative protection for Rainbow Dam should be considered.
Upstream tip of Helco Island	Protective of free-flowing conditions and ORVs of Tariffville Gorge. Protective of existing Rainbow hydro operations. Identifiable boundary, but could move over time.	Study Committee & SBD reached consensus on this boundary in July 2010 as fully protective of existing Rainbow Dam operations.	As of March 2011, SBD requested a larger exclusion area to allow for potential future expansion of Rainbow Reservoir (raising of Rainbow Dam flashboard height).	Variation of "full designation" alternative. Provides small buffer (based on currently available data) for existing Rainbow Reservoir in the event of future FERC licensing, but would essentially prevent expansion of Rainbow.
500 feet upstream of Spoonville Dam	Requested in March 2011 by SBD to allow potential future expansion of Rainbow Dam to maximum engineering height (total flashboard height of 13 feet).	Not supported by majority of stakeholders	Would inundate approximately 0.5 additional miles of currently free-flowing river segment above Rainbow, and would present other potential impacts such as to the adjacent lands, and instream values.	Considered under Alternative C: Partial Designation. Raising of Rainbow Dam by up to an additional 7 feet would need to be studied and licensed through normal FERC procedures, which would include a full evaluation of impacts, costs and benefits.

All stakeholders participating on the Study Committee have agreed with SBD that it is important that the existing operations of the Rainbow Dam and Reservoir be excluded from the designation and that SBD's existing operations be protected in the event of potential FERC licensing at some point in the future. Such FERC licensing would be triggered by proposed changes to the dam or its operation, or potentially by other factors. Given the desire to protect SBD's operations in this manner, and given the lack of precise scientific data determining the exact upstream extent of the Rainbow impoundment, it may be necessary and advisable to include legislative protections for the existing SBD operations as a part of any legislative Wild and Scenic designation effort. Figure 10 notes which potential endpoints would especially warrant such protections, based on close proximity (or potential overlap) between the Wild and Scenic River segment and the upstream boundary of the Rainbow Reservoir. In addition, Alternative C: Partial Designation includes a segment endpoint that would go beyond protecting the existing Rainbow operations, and would allow for potential expansion (raising flashboards an additional seven feet above the dam crest).

Based on existing data and under typical non-storm flow events, the engineer estimated that the upper end of the impoundment would likely be downstream of the Route 187 Bridge crossing (see Management Plan Appendices for Tariffville Gorge Hydrology Study). It is likely, therefore that the river is free-flowing down to the 187 bridge crossing. It also appears to meet the generally riverine in appearance standard down to the Windsor Town line. In March of 2011, SBD again asked for a larger boundary extending 500 feet upstream of the Spoonville Dam to allow for potential future alterations of the flashboards situated on top of the dam crest. Currently the flashboards stand six feet above the dam crest and SBD estimates that they could potentially be raised seven feet to reach a total height of 13 feet. Flowage rights would need to be obtained or documented to enable SBD to increase the size of the impoundment upstream of the Windsor Town line, since raising the flashboards would inundate properties adjacent to the river. In the engineer's report it is estimated that the increase in the size of the impoundment

length and depth could potentially submerge the lower portion of the renowned Tariffville Gorge and the bedrock features that will be exposed once the Spoonville Dam has been removed. In the event of this type of FERC licensing proposal, the Wild and Scenic designation could protect the river from further impoundment. However in this case it is also important to protect the existing operations of Rainbow Dam in the event of a future FERC licensing proceeding for dam improvements that might be necessary to maintain the current operation.

It is important to note that both the towns and the Study Committee are eager to protect the free-flowing river conditions and ORVs of the Tariffville Gorge by achieving designation for the maximum length of river possible.

If definitive studies at some future point (likely as a part of an FERC licensing procedure, should one ever be undertaken) establish a different, smaller impoundment extent, it would be conceivable to revisit the eligibility and suitability of a short river segment at the upstream edge of this impoundment boundary. In this regard, the towns of Bloomfield, East Granby and Windsor are supportive of designating as much of their Farmington River frontage as possible. At the moment however, this question is academic. Any such future re-consideration would require congressional action to amend the designation. As well, the potential Wild and Scenic Congressional bill is expected to provide protection for the existing hydro operation.

Lower Farmington River Downstream of Rainbow Dam

Similarly, as a question of suitability, the Study Committee, including the Town of Windsor, NPS and Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) have recognized that potential FERC licensing of the existing Rainbow facility might reasonably establish/require a FERC downstream project boundary that would extend below the existing tailrace for some small distance. Therefore, to be fully and conservatively protective of the existing Rainbow Dam operations, the Study concludes that a 0.5-mile segment of river below Rainbow Dam is unsuitable for designation. This 0.5-mile reach includes a small buffer area below the existing tailrace discharge from the Dam designed to be fully protective of the existing Rainbow Dam operations in the event of future FERC licensing.

In addition, SBD has requested that an additional 2.2 miles of the Farmington River below this point be excluded from Wild and Scenic River designation (to one half mile below the Rt. 75 bridge in the Poquonock section of Windsor) to preserve the possibility of new dam construction in the vicinity of Rt. 75 in the future. SBD has no current plans for dam construction nor do they consider it feasible at this time. However they own lands which border the river in the vicinity of the bridge at the site of a historic dam no longer in existence. Additional flowage rights would be necessary to go forward with construction of an impoundment. SBD has stated that a Wild and Scenic River designation on this river segment could also result in reduced property value for their lands.

The Wild and Scenic Study representatives participated in discussions and meetings with Town of Windsor staff and leaders over many months to allow proper consideration of this issue. The Windsor Council requested a consensus opinion from the Study Committee

Photo: Wanda Colman



on this matter. With the exception of the SBD representative, the Study Committee voted unanimously to support designation of this river segment. Subsequently, the Windsor Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to endorse the Wild and Scenic designation with the contingency that the exclusion boundary be situated shortly below the dam tailrace so as to prevent construction of a new dam, though there were several council members opposed to this position. SBD is currently opposed to designating the river segment below the Rainbow Dam tailrace even though there are no current plans for dam construction, and the amount of power that could be generated is very small, making project development economically unfeasible at this time. The CT DEP opposes any expansion of the footprint of the existing Rainbow Dam or development of a new dam due to the significance of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook for fish habitat and restoration, and it has expressed the opinion that a new dam is not feasible or permissible.

In analyzing this situation, the NPS has concluded that the entire 8.1 mile Farmington River segment below the Rainbow Dam exclusion boundary is suitable for designation based on consideration of the principal suitability factors outlined at the beginning of this chapter. These considerations include:

- Support for Wild and Scenic River designation and opposition to a new dam on this segment by the Town of Windsor.
- Support for Wild and Scenic River designation and opposition to a new dam on this segment by the CT DEP.
- Present lack of economic or political feasibility for hydroelectric development at this site.
- Strong local and state recognition and commitment to preservation of identified free-flowing river values associated with this stretch of river.
- Potential adverse impacts to upstream river areas (especially fish passage) if a new dam were constructed at this site.
- Potential adverse impacts to riparian and river corridor-related ORVs associated with this stretch of river if a new dam were to be constructed.

However, based upon the presence of some differing opinions within the Town of Windsor, and to honor the position of Stanley Black & Decker that hydroelectric development of the Rt. 75 site may someday be feasible and should not be precluded by Wild and Scenic River designation, this Study Report includes further consideration of a partial Wild and Scenic River designation alternative (Alternative C) that would exclude 2.2 miles of eligible and suitable river below the Rainbow Dam tailrace, thereby allowing FERC to consider a license application for a hydroelectric facility in the vicinity of the Route 75 bridge, as proposed by SBD.

4.G. Summary of General Findings of Suitability

The Suitability analysis of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook concludes the following:

- Analysis of existing local, state, federal, and non-regulatory protections applicable to the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are found to adequately protect the rivers consistent with the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These protections, combined with local support through town policies for river protection provide substantial protection to the river and its adjacent lands. When combined with the statutory protections that would be provided through the Wild and Scenic River designation, the Farmington River and Salmon Brook's Outstandingly Remarkable Values, free-flowing character, and water quality would be adequately protected without the need for federal land acquisition or federal land ownership and management. This finding is consistent with similar findings that have been made for each of the existing Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, whereby the designating legislation for each of those rivers has prohibited the federal condemnation of lands, as provided for by Section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It is anticipated that any designating legislation for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook will likewise include such a provision. The Management Plan has been developed with input from and to meet the needs of local, state, and federal stakeholders and programs. It has been endorsed as the Management Plan for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook by the governing

bodies of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor. It would be utilized as the "Comprehensive Management Plan" called for by Section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, if the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are designated as components of the national system.

- The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan as implemented by the future Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (FSWS) provides an appropriate and effective management framework for the long-term management and protection of the watercourses.
- Based upon the official record of endorsement from local governing bodies, citizens, local and regional non-governmental organizations as well as an endorsement from the Connecticut General Assembly and Office of the Governor, it is concluded that there is sufficient support to make the river suitable for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act based on the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers model.

4.H. Segment—by—Segment Suitability Findings

Refer to Chapter 3, Section B. for a detailed discussion regarding eligibility of river segments.

Segment 1. Upper Farmington River and Town of Canton (Suitable): This 1.1-mile segment reaches from the New Hartford/Canton town line to the confluence with the Nepaug River. This river segment is contiguous to the upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic area and therefore is recommended to be administered as part of the upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River segment. In this case the additional 1.1 miles of the upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River would be under the jurisdiction of the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC), which includes a Town of Canton representative. Once the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Study is complete, Canton would no longer be represented on the proposed Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Wild and Scenic Committee (FSWS).

Segment 2. Collinsville Dams (Not Currently Suitable): This 2.9 mile segment begins at the confluence with the Nepaug River and extends downstream to a point 0.2 miles below the Lower Collinsville Dam tailrace. This segment of the lower Farmington River is found to be unsuitable based on the existing FERC Preliminary Permit and demonstrated local and Congressional interest in hydropower re-development for the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams. In the event that this project is dropped from consideration or otherwise abandoned, the suitability of this could be re-evaluated based on local, state and stakeholder interest. It is envisioned that the FSWS and FRCC could monitor this situation in partnership with the CT DEP and the affected communities and consider the possibility of removing the lower Collinsville Dam and establishing non-hydro fish passage at the historically significant Upper Collinsville Dam.

Segment 3. Lower Farmington River (Suitable): This 27.3 mile segment begins below the tailrace of the Lower Collinsville Dam and extends south through Burlington, Avon, and Farmington, then turns north in Farmington and continues through Avon, Simsbury, East Granby, and into Bloomfield. This segment ends at the Route 187 bridge. The Route 187 bridge represents the likely upper end of the Rainbow Dam impoundment based on best available data. In the event that FERC licensing of Rainbow Dam in the future defines a smaller impoundment area, this endpoint could be re-evaluated based on local, state and stakeholder interest. In

addition, Figure 10 illustrates a range of other potential endpoints above Rainbow Dam that could be utilized in any potential legislative effort to designate this segment as a Wild and Scenic River. Figure 10 also touches on some of the factors related to the various potential endpoints. The Comparison of Alternatives in Chapter 5 also discusses these differences and the differing impacts of the alternatives.

Segment 4. Lower Farmington River (Suitable): This final 8.1 mile segment stretches from below the tailrace of the Rainbow Dam to the confluence with the Connecticut River.

East, West and Main Stem Salmon Brook (Suitable): This segment consists of 11.4 miles of the Salmon Brook East Branch, extending from the Massachusetts/Connecticut state line in Hartland, and into Granby, where it joins the Salmon Brook Main Stem; 12.6 miles of the Salmon Brook West Branch, reaching from the Hartland headwaters, and into Granby where it joins the Salmon Brook Main Stem; and 2.4 miles of the Brook's Main Stem, reaching from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the confluence with the Farmington River in East Granby.

4.1. Summary

37 miles of the lower Farmington River, and the entirety of the Salmon Brook, including the Main Stem and East and West Branches, totaling 26.4 miles, are found to be eligible and suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation. The Farmington River and Salmon Brook are both assigned a preliminary classification of 'recreational'.

Salmon Brook

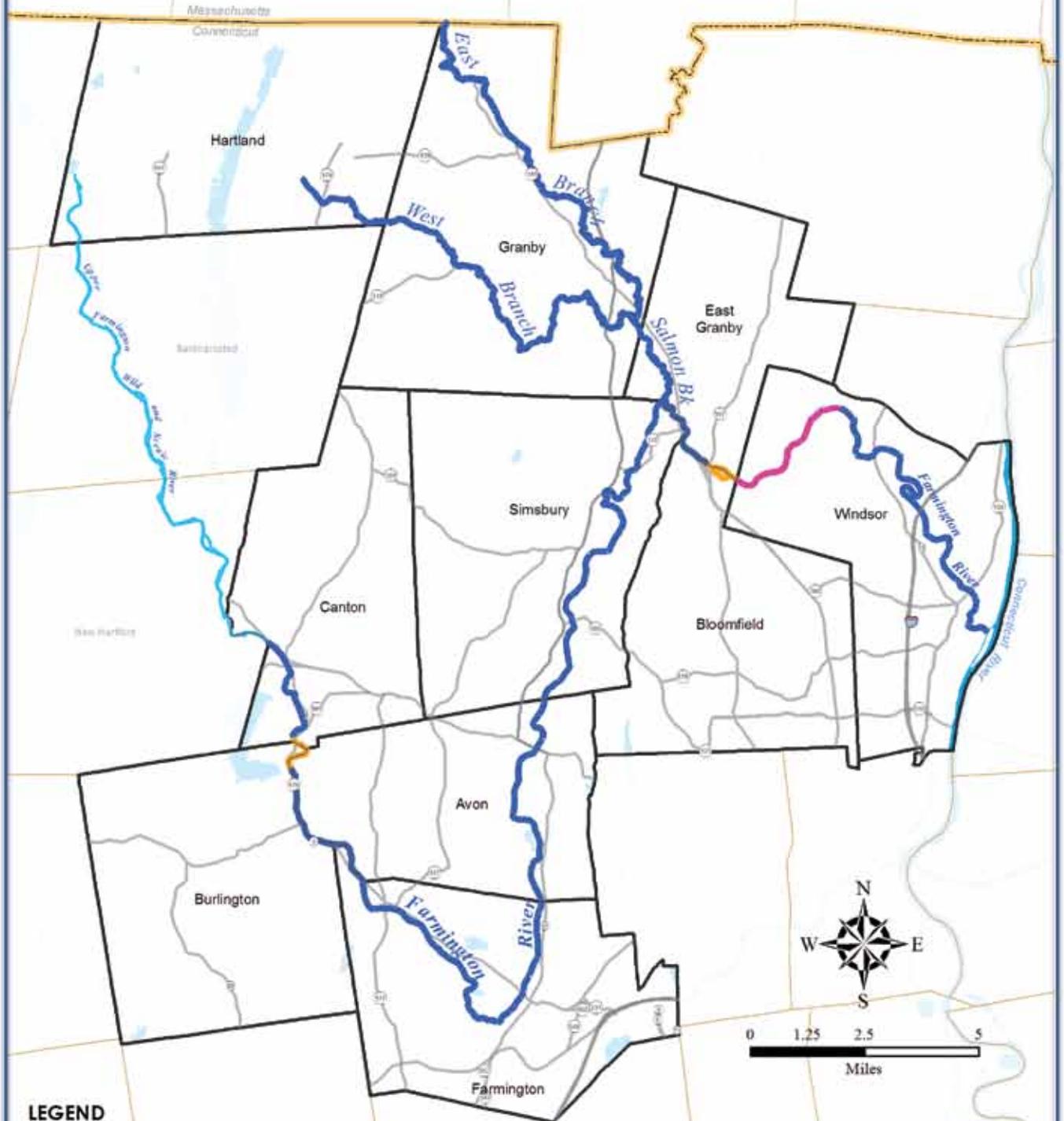




LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER / SALMON BROOK

Wild and Scenic Study

Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor Connecticut



LEGEND

- Suitable/Eligible
- Not Suitable/Eligible
- Not Suitable/Not Eligible
- Upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River

FIGURE 11 Eligibility and Suitability

Data Sources & Notes: DEP; TeleAtlas (DPS); FRWA. Prepared by J. Bolton, FRWA; 07/11

Chapter 5: Environmental Assessment

5.A. Introduction

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, as amended), enacted in 1968, established a framework for protection of select rivers, for the benefit of present and future generations. Congress declared that “the established national policy of dam and other construction... needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers, or sections thereof, in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.” These selected rivers collectively form the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Prior to a river’s addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System, it must be found both eligible and suitable. To be eligible, the river must be free-flowing and possess at least one “outstandingly remarkable” resource value, such as exceptional recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic features. The resource values must be directly related to, or dependent upon the river. The determination of a resource’s significance is based on the professional judgment of the Study Committee.

The suitability determination for a Wild and Scenic River designation is based upon several findings. First, there must be evidence of lasting protection for the river’s free-flowing character and outstanding resources, either through existing mechanisms, or through a combination of existing and new conservation measures resulting from the Wild and Scenic Study. Second, there must be strong support for designation from existing entities including towns, the state, riverfront landowners, and conservation organizations that will provide long-term protection of the river. Third, a practical management framework must be devised that will allow these interests to work together as effective stewards of the river and its resources. Finally, National Wild and Scenic River designation must fit as an appropriate and efficient river conservation tool.

As a result of the studies conducted by the Study Committee in partnership with the NPS, the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook have been determined to be both eligible and suitable for designation into the

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and NPS Directors order #12, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted as part of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Study Report. This EA addresses the proposed action of designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The EA is comprised of sections that describe the Purpose and Need for Action, Alternatives, the River Environment, the Impacts of Alternatives, and the Public Involvement Process.

5.B. Project Description

The proposed project provides for permanent protection from federally permitted or funded water resource projects through a Wild and Scenic River designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and its important river-related resources. No river construction projects or improvements that may impact the river environment are being considered as part of this project.

5.C. Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to protect and enhance the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the outstanding river resources including Geology, Water Quality, Biological Diversity, the Cultural Landscape, and Recreational Resources. Local leaders of the ten town study area and the state have expressed a strong desire to protect the river and its resources and are seeking federal designation in order to gain national recognition for their waterways and implement the locally prepared advisory Management Plan.

The purpose of this EA is to enable the National Park Service and its partners to:

- Determine if the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook should be proposed for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and
- Determine the best long-term conservation strategies for protecting and enhancing the rivers and associated resources.

The lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridors contain important “outstandingly remarkable” resource values related to the recreational opportunities, the distinctive species and habitats, the cultural landscape and the underlying geological history.

The lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridors contain important “outstandingly remarkable” resource values related to the recreational opportunities, the distinctive species and habitats, the cultural landscape and the underlying geological history. Despite the fact that the existing framework of local and state resource protection was deemed adequate through the Wild and Scenic Study, it is important to ensure optimal protection of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), water quality, and free-flowing character over time due to threats and a changing environment.

The proposed Partnership Wild and Scenic River approach to designation and the Management Plan (locally developed during the Study) is tailored to rivers like the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook that are characterized by extensive private land ownership along the river, and well-established traditions of local control of river management in a community-based setting. This designation scenario is designed to support the development of river protection strategies that bring communities together in protecting, enhancing, and managing high value river resources. Implementation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan is intended to be pursued in a coordinated approach between all levels of government as well as with residents and local and regional partners and organizations.

The purpose of the designation, as determined by the Wild and Scenic Study Committee in partnership with the National Park Service, is to protect the river resources through local

implementation of the Management Plan’s protection goals as follows:

- Protect geological features that are important as agricultural, cultural, hydrologic, or recreational resources or that are the basis for natural ecological functions or that serve significant scientific or educational purposes.
- Identify, understand, maintain, and as needed improve the chemical, physical, biological, and flow conditions in the waters of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook so that they support the needs of native wildlife, aquatic life, and recreational users.
- Recognize, understand, protect and enhance the unique, rare, declining and characteristic native species and natural communities of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Corridors that contribute to the area’s biodiversity.
- Conserve the archaeological and historical heritage of the river corridor and develop interest in this heritage, strengthening residents’ connection to the river and enriching the experience of visitors.
- Facilitate public recreation on and along the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook in a manner consistent with natural and cultural resource protection.

Additionally, threats and management issues were identified that could degrade Outstandingly Remarkable Resource quality. The potential gaps between potential threats and existing protections were noted, and recommended tools or techniques provided for improving protection and enhancement of the resources at the local level.

5.D. Alternatives

During the Wild and Scenic Study the Committee considered a variety of alternatives for the long-term protection of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook and associated resources. In accordance with NEPA, CEQ regulations, the desires of the Study Area towns, and established NPS policy for Wild and Scenic Studies of extensive private land ownership along rivers, alternatives for the conservation of river resources are described here.

Alternatives were considered and evaluated in accordance with the interests and objectives of the riverfront communities as articulated through the Study Committee. In order for an

Photo: Tom Cameron



alternative to meet the needs of the towns in protecting the river the following objectives must be met:

- Federal designation would only be recommended if strong support were expressed through passage of support resolutions by the affected towns.
- No reliance on federal ownership of land in order to achieve the Wild and Scenic River Act's goals of protecting and enhancing river values.
- Land use management is regulated through existing local and state authorities, the same as before a designation.
- Administration and implementation of a locally led Management Plan is accomplished through a broadly participatory management committee, convened for each river specifically for this purpose.
- Responsibility for managing and protecting river resources is shared between the local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners on the committee.
- A strong emphasis on grassroots involvement and consensus building.
- Reliance on volunteerism as a key to success.
- No National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent, law enforcement, or similar elements of traditional federally managed units of the National Park System.

In accordance with NPS Director's Order #12 and NEPA Section 102(2) (E), a range of proposed river protection alternatives were considered, including a "no action" alternative. Additionally and in accordance with the DO-12 Handbook, the NPS identifies the environmentally preferable alternative in its NEPA documents for public review and comment [Sect. 4.5 E(9)]. The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and best protects, preserves, and enhances historical, cultural, and natural resources. The environmentally preferable alternative is identified upon consideration and weighing by the Responsible Official of long-term environmental impacts against short-term impacts in evaluating what is the best protection of these resources. In some situations, such as when different alternatives impact different resources to different degrees,

there may be more than one environmentally preferable alternative (43 CFR 46.30).

Alternative A. No Action

The No Action alternative is evaluated and used as a baseline for comparison with the effects of the action alternatives. This alternative does not involve designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This alternative would maintain existing state and local controls for resource protection on the Farmington River and Salmon Brook without additional federal protection from federal water resource projects or federal support for local river protection efforts. Under the No Action alternative, there would be no involvement or support in river management from the National Park Service through administration of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Alternative B. Full Designation—NPS Preferred

This alternative would designate all segments of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook having been found to meet the criteria of eligibility and suitability into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This alternative would extend the Wild and Scenic River designation to the confluence with the Connecticut River (the upper 14 miles of the Farmington are already designated). Alternative B best protects the resources of the rivers by designating the segments as described. Designation would include the lower Farmington River, from the terminus of the upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic segment to the Connecticut River, with the exception of two river segments that include dams. It would also include and the designation of the East, West and Main Stem Branches of the Salmon Brook within Connecticut.

The future Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (FSWS) would assume lead responsibility for coordination of the Management Plan implementation that was created during the Study. To undertake this responsibility, the FSWS would coordinate and direct implementation of activities described in the Management Plan. The Management Plan as implemented by FSWS would provide an appropriate and effective management framework for the long-term management and protection of the watercourses.

The future Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (FSWS) would assume lead responsibility for coordination of the Management Plan implementation that was created during the Study.

The NPS would have a role on the FSWS and could potentially provide financial and technical assistance to support Management Plan implementation. The NPS would provide National Wild and Scenic River Act Section (7) reviews of federally permitted or funded projects which might potentially impact the waterways and associated resources. Additionally, the functions of the NPS could include, but not be limited to the following activities:

- Provide limited financial assistance to support the coordination of river conservation projects amongst towns and partners.
- Respond to public inquiries.
- Develop appropriate plans to protect resources and develop visitor and interpretive resources.
- Fund additional research initiatives for resource protection and public use.
- Provide technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, through use of cooperative agreements.
- Assist in public education.
- Develop interpretive media.

Alternative C. Partial Designation

This Alternative varies from Alternative B by excluding an additional 1.5 miles of the Farmington River below the Rainbow Dam tailrace, and an additional .5 miles above the Route 187 Bridge from potential Wild and Scenic River designation (at the upstream end of the existing Rainbow Dam impoundment). Below Rainbow, the exclusion area would extend for a total of 2.2 miles below the dam to a point 0.5 miles below the Route 75 bridge in the Poquonock section of the Town of Windsor. Above Rainbow, the reservoir exclusion area would extend to a point 500 ft upstream of the old Spoonville Dam site at the base of Tariffville Gorge. This alternative would provide opportunities for new hydroelectric development below Rainbow Dam and for potential expansion (raising flashboard height) of the existing Rainbow Dam.

Variations on Alternatives

Multiple variations exist regarding potential Wild and Scenic River designation alternatives. These include:

Endpoints Above Rainbow Dam. As noted earlier, Figure 10 presents 4 different

alternatives for designation endpoints above Rainbow Dam. The Windsor Town line and Helco Island alternatives have not been separately evaluated here, as they are both variants of the Route 187 bridge alternative defined in the environmentally preferred alternative. Neither would allow for potential future expansion of Rainbow Reservoir, and as such are functionally equivalent to the Rte 187 crossing.

Full Designation of the Lower Farmington Below Rainbow, Partial Designation Above Rainbow; Full Designation Above Rainbow and Partial Designation Below Rainbow.

The differing treatment of the river segments immediately above and below the existing Rainbow Dam and Reservoir could be “mixed and matched” to allow for consideration of future hydroelectric development opportunities at one end or the other. Either of these approaches would essentially “split the difference” between Alternatives B and C, representing a potential legislative compromise approach that would apply Wild and Scenic protections to either the expansion of hydro above Rainbow or new hydroelectric development below Rainbow (but not to both).

Features Common to the No Action, Full Designation and Partial Designation Alternatives

1. Continued implementation of existing local, state, and federal programs documented in the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan.

Wild and Scenic River designation would not replace or appreciably alter the existing implementation of the “baseline” local, state or federal programs as discussed in the Management Plan, and which comprise the basis of the “No Action” Alternative.

Thus, continued implementation of these programs is assumed under all alternatives.

2. Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan.

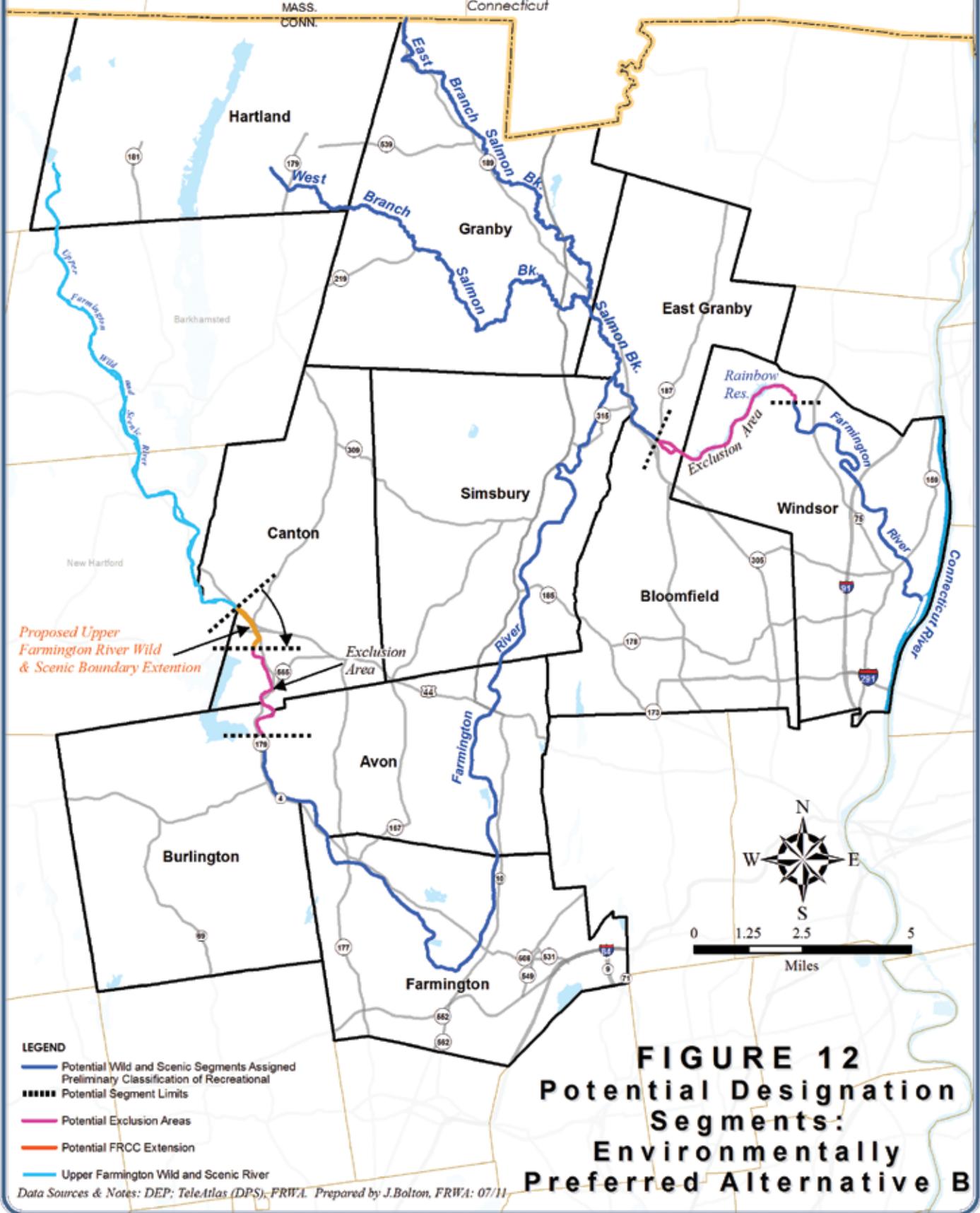
The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan has been developed during the Study to serve as the blueprint for management and protection of the rivers regardless of whether Wild and Scenic Rivers designation occurs. However, if designation occurs there is a greater likelihood that the Management Plan will be implemented to its full potential. Without a designation there is no guarantee



LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER / SALMON BROOK

Wild and Scenic Study

Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington,
Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor
Connecticut



that a group of stakeholders will convene to oversee implementation of the Management Plan and the NPS will not be involved. The principal effect or impact of Wild and Scenic Rivers designation will be to add the specific protections of designation **on top of** existing programs, and to establish an authorization for direct federal funding and technical assistance to aid in implementation of the Management Plan.

3. Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study.

Since the watercourses are currently under a 5(a) study, they are protected under Section 7(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for three (3) full fiscal years after the study report is submitted to Congress.

Alternatives Considered and Rejected Prior to the Wild and Scenic Study

National Park Service Management

Under this type of management scheme, the Farmington River and Salmon Brook would be added to the National Wild and Scenic River System as a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) and would be managed directly by NPS staff. The management committee, as described above, would be created, but the NPS would take a more active role, using the Management Committee and Plan for guidance. With this type of management direction, the NPS would be responsible for assuring protection in a traditionally managed unit of the National Park System such as through potential NPS law enforcement or land management or acquisition.

This method of management was eliminated from consideration prior to the authorization of the Wild and Scenic Study Bill. The upper Farmington River holds a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation which serves as a successful model of the coordinated approach to river management which does not involve federal land acquisition or the direct federal management presence of more traditional park units. Thus the “Partnership” approach was deemed best suited to the lower Farmington River area by the pre-study team. Local support for designation was based on the expectation that river management would be accomplished through the Partnership method, not solely by the NPS.

State Management

Federal Wild and Scenic designation by the Secretary of the Interior under Section 2(a) (ii) of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

would mean that the State of Connecticut would serve as the manager for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

This management approach was eliminated from consideration during the pre-study authorization phase. Based on the high level of early local support and involvement in the process by riverfront towns and conservation organizations, the need for state management was determined to be not appropriate for this river designation. The pre-study team also determined that the upper Farmington River “Partnership” model for the Wild and Scenic Study and designation, which serves as a successful model of the coordinated approach to river management, was best suited to the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook area.

5.E. Identification of Environmentally Preferable Alternative

In accordance with the DO-12 Handbook, the NPS identifies the environmentally preferable alternative in its NEPA documents for public review and comment [Sect. 4.5 E(9)]. The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and best protects, preserves, and enhances historical, cultural, and natural resources. The environmentally preferable alternative is identified upon consideration and weighing by the Responsible Official of long-term environmental impacts against short-term impacts in evaluating what is the best protection of these resources. In some situations, such as when different alternatives impact different resources to different degrees, there may be more than one environmentally preferable alternative (43 CFR 46.30).

Alternative B most fully protects the free-flowing river character, water quality and Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Based on the analysis of environmental consequences of each alternative in Section 5.F., Alternative B is the environmentally preferable alternative. Under this alternative the Federal Power Commission (FERC) shall not license the construction of any dam or other project works. This full designation alternative would provide special recognition and protection for the watercourses, and for the five identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for which the rivers would be designated.

The Preferred Alternative is B, National Wild and Scenic River designation of all segments

The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and best protects, preserves, and enhances historical, cultural, and natural resources.

found eligible and suitable, with a river management plan implemented through the local Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Committee comprised of local, state and federal partners.

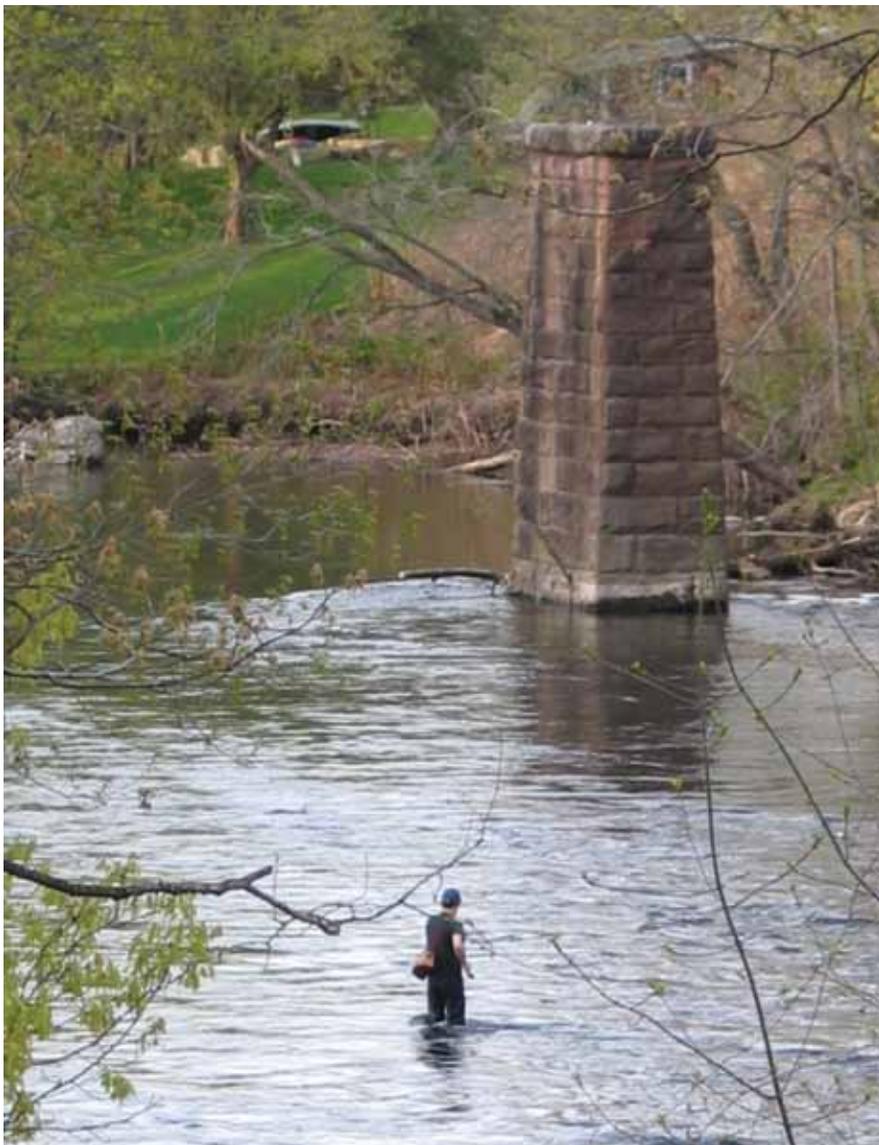
Environmentally Preferable Alternative B:

- Most fully protects the free-flowing river character, water quality and Outstandingly Remarkable Values.
- Allows designation of all currently eligible and suitable river segments.
- Protects the river from the harmful effects of federally licensed or funded development projects.

5.F. Affected Environment

The Wild and Scenic Study included the lower Farmington River from the New Hartford/Canton town line to the confluence with the Connecticut River, and the East, West and Main Stem Branches of the Salmon Brook in

Photo: Wanda Colman



Connecticut. The area is described in detail in Chapter 2 starting on page 8 of this report.

In addition, NEPA asks federal agencies to analyze the likely environmental impacts of a proposed action, in this case designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. Wild and Scenic River designation (and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) is specifically targeted toward the preservation of free-flowing river character, and protection, and enhancement of identified “outstandingly remarkable” values. Therefore, the “affected environment” for the NEPA analysis is free-flowing river character, water quality, and “outstandingly remarkable” natural, cultural and recreational river values. These values have been extensively described in the Outstandingly Remarkable Values Chapter 3.C. starting on page 17 of this report. A fuller understanding of the resources in question, their existing management and the likely impacts of Wild and Scenic designation can also be gained from reading the companion document to this Study Report, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan.

5.G. Impact of Alternatives

This section of the Environmental Assessment allows for comparisons of the alternatives and their impacts on the resources of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. It is not anticipated that any part of the natural environment of the waterways will be adversely or negatively impacted by the designation of the river into the National Wild and Scenic River System or via the adoption of the Management Plan. No river construction projects or improvements that may impact the river environment are being considered as part of this planning process.

The impacts of the alternatives are estimated based on professional experience related to similar designations in the northeast region utilizing the “Partnership Wild and Scenic River” designation model. Such a designation has been in effect on the upper Farmington River for more than 15 years, providing an excellent model from which to estimate impacts. Additionally, there are another 10 similar river designations in the larger Northeast Region of the National Park Service which collectively provide a sound basis for understanding the impacts of designation.

See Impact of Alternatives Table that follows.

5.H. Impact of Alternatives Table—Description

Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Full Designation— Environmentally Preferable Alternative	Alternative C: Partial Designation
<p>Description of Alternative</p> <p>This alternative would maintain existing state and local controls for resource protection on the Farmington River and Salmon Brook without additional federal protection from federal water resource projects or federal support for local river protection efforts.</p> <p>Under this alternative, no portion of the Farmington River or Salmon Brook would be designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The existing local, state, and federal river management and protection context would be unchanged. The Farmington and Salmon Brook Management Plan prepared as part of the study could be utilized by existing river stakeholders to guide and improve future river management and protection efforts. However, the absence of the federal designation and anticipated federal support for the Plan and its implementation would likely mean that the Plan and its implementation would be utilized to a much lesser extent than if designation were to occur. Long-term federal support and assistance to protection of free-flowing river conditions, water quality, and ORVs would not be in place. Similarly, it is possible that some other entity (the National Park Service would not be involved if the river is not designated) might organize, convene and support a committee charged with overseeing implementation of the Management Plan. The likelihood is, however, that the Committee will not be a significant long-term factor in the absence of federal designation and support.</p> <p>In the absence of designation, federally assisted water resource development projects such as hydro could be developed at existing dam sites or new sites.</p>	<p>Description of Alternative</p> <p>This alternative would designate, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, all segments of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook found to meet the criteria of eligibility and suitability, totaling 63.4 miles. This alternative would extend the existing upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River designation to the confluence with the Connecticut River. Under this alternative, 37 miles of the lower Farmington River, with the exception of two river segments with dams, and the 26.4 miles of the East and West Branches and Main Stem of the Salmon Brook within Connecticut would be subject to the additional protections of the federal designation.</p> <p>If designated, the National Park Service would convene a Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee, ensuring that this oversight and coordination body exists and functions to stimulate implementation of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Management Plan. Federal funding and technical assistance (subject to congressional appropriations) would be available to assist in Plan implementation and would motivate increased long-term efforts to protect and enhance free-flowing river conditions, water quality and identified ORVs. Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would be in effect for all eligible and suitable segments, providing maximum protection to the free-flowing river character from potentially adverse federally assisted water resource development project.</p> <p>This alternative best matches the desires of the communities, local governments and river stakeholders.</p>	<p>Description of Alternative</p> <p>This Alternative varies from Alternative B by excluding an additional 1.5 miles of the Farmington River below the Rainbow Dam tailrace, and an additional .5 miles above the Route 187 Bridge from potential Wild and Scenic River designation (at the upstream end of the existing Rainbow Dam impoundment). Below Rainbow, the exclusion area would extend for a total of 2.2 miles below the dam to a point 0.5 miles below the Route 75 bridge in the Poquonock section of the Town of Windsor. Above Rainbow, the reservoir exclusion area would extend to a point 500 ft upstream of the old Spoonville Dam site at the base of Tariffville Gorge. This alternative would provide opportunities for new hydroelectric development below Rainbow Dam and for potential expansion (raising flashboard height) of the existing Rainbow Dam. These new and or increased hydroelectric opportunities have been advocated for by the Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) company which owns and operates the existing Rainbow Dam and which owns riverfront lands below Rainbow that have been targeted by the company for future hydroelectric development.</p>

5.H. Impact of Alternatives—Impacts on Free-Flowing Character

Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Full Designation	Alternative C: Partial Designation
<p>Impacts on Free-Flowing Character This alternative would provide no additional protection (beyond existing state and federal project review and permitting programs) to the free-flowing character of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Federally permitted or funded water resource projects that could alter the free-flow of the river and its undisturbed shoreline areas would only continue to be subject to Section 7(b) review for three full fiscal years after this study report is submitted to Congress. Since most, and perhaps all, projects posing a threat to free-flowing condition require federal assistance/permitting, this lack of future protection could be significant over time.</p> <p>The potential hydroelectric developments promoted by SBD (raising of Rainbow Dam to create more power potential at that existing facility and development of a new facility downstream of Rainbow Dam) could be pursued. Other former and historical dam sites on the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook could likewise attract potential hydroelectric proposals, though no such proposals have surfaced as part of Study investigations. The feasibility of any such proposals is highly speculative and influenced by such factors as energy prices, government renewable energy incentives, the larger state and federal regulatory climate, and other factors.</p> <p>Beyond hydroelectric development, this alternative would provide no additional review or scrutiny of Army Corps permits or other federal assistance projects related to the river. Over time the absence of this additional scrutiny and regulatory protection could allow for degradation of free-flowing character through rip-rap, channel alterations, or similar projects. Any such degradation would be expected to be long-term and incremental in nature.</p>	<p>Impacts on Free-Flowing Character This alternative would permanently protect 63.4 miles of the Lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook from federally assisted or permitted projects that could alter the free-flow of the river, and would specifically prohibit the FERC from licensing any new hydroelectric project on or directly affecting the designated segments. New hydroelectric development opportunities advocated by SBD (raising the height of Rainbow Dam flashboards, and/or development of a new project below Rainbow Dam in Windsor) would be prohibited, as would other potential new hydroelectric development proposals on designated portions of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The exclusion of the Lower Farmington River segment surrounding Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams would allow Avon, Burlington and Canton to continue to explore the feasibility of redeveloping and relicensing hydropower at the existing Collinsville Dams.</p> <p>Under this alternative the exclusion boundaries surrounding the Rainbow Dam and Reservoir would allow continued operation of the existing hydropower facility and allow FERC to accept a license application if one is required in the future. Because of the uncertainties regarding the upper limit of the Rainbow Reservoir, this alternative and its variants (Helco Island, Windsor Town Line) could complicate such potential future FERC licensing of the Rainbow Dam. This potential issue should be reviewed and discussed with the FERC, and legislative protections for the Rainbow Dam and its operations could be considered as a part of the legislative designation process.</p> <p>This alternative would provide the maximum protection to free-flowing character from other forms of federally/assisted water resource development projects such as rip-rap, channel modifications, diversions. Over time, this additional protection and project scrutiny could have the effect of better preserving and/or enhancing free-flowing river character and natural stream channel conditions.</p>	<p>Impacts on Free-Flowing Character This alternative would allow for future consideration of the two hydroelectric development proposals advocated for by SBD—raising the height of Rainbow Dam flashboards and development of a new facility downstream of Rainbow Dam in the vicinity of the Route 75 crossing. Other segments of the Lower Farmington and all of Salmon Brook would be designated and protected similar to Alternative B. Under this alternative at least 0.5 miles of the lower Farmington River above the existing Rainbow Reservoir could be inundated by the raising of Rainbow flashboards to the maximum feasible engineering height of 13 feet (according to SBD data). This would convert that stretch of free-flowing river into a ponded condition. If such a proposal were pursued by the SBD company, it would require FERC licensing, and the public benefit of such a change would be evaluated through such FERC licensing process.</p> <p>Similarly, SBD or another party could propose development of a new hydroelectric facility below the Rainbow Dam. SBD owns lands in the vicinity of the Route 75 bridge and has performed some preliminary analysis of a potential new facility (likely a dam) at this site. As with the Rainbow expansion above, any such proposal would need to be individually reviewed and licensed through the FERC process. The presence of Wild and Scenic River designated segments above and below these areas would allow the National Park Service to ensure protection of upstream and downstream resources as a part of such a process, but the impacts to the non-designated reaches themselves would not be considered in the Wild and Scenic Rivers review.</p>

5.H. Impact of Alternatives—Impacts on Protection of Identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Full Designation	Alternative C: Partial Designation
<p>Impacts on Protection of Identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)</p> <p>Under the no action alternative there would be no increased protection of the identified natural, cultural and recreational Outstandingly Remarkable Values, or water quality. The current level of protection through local, state and federal channels would remain unchanged and without the Wild and Scenic designation's protections, could lead to incremental decline in the ORVs over time. The increased scrutiny afforded by the direct application of Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would not be in effect for the oversight of federally funded or assisted projects beyond the three-year post-study report submission deadline. In addition, the increased examination of other federal projects (non-water resource development projects) that could be expected through required NEPA processes would not include recognition and protection of federal Wild and Scenic River status. Similarly, the probable lack of oversight and project assessment applied to non-federal projects, through Wild and Scenic Committee support, would erode local and state efforts to protect identified natural, cultural, and recreational values.</p> <p>Without Wild and Scenic Rivers designation, resource protection strategies set forth within the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan to promote protection and enhancement of ORVs would not be implemented to the same extent since there would be no Wild and Scenic Committee to lead the effort. Furthermore the National Park Service would not be available to provide technical assistance, further leading to a potential long-term deterioration of identified resources.</p>	<p>Impacts on Protection of Identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)</p> <p>Alternative B would provide the highest degree of protection to the identified ORVs and would permanently protect the ORVs of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook from federally permitted/funded water resource development projects that would have a potential direct or adverse effect. FERC licensed projects on or directly impacting designated river segments would be prohibited, and as a result the ORVs of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook would be permanently protected from the potential impacts of new projects. In addition, the NEPA review processes for federally funded/assisted non-water resource projects would necessitate weighing impacts on the identified ORVs. The National Park Service would comment through existing federal agency review processes to ensure this consideration.</p> <p>The Wild and Scenic Committee could take the lead and responsibility for following guidance provided in the Management Plan and could undertake desirable steps and actions needed to protect the identified ORVs and provide opportunities for resource protection and enhancement. This management framework has proven effective on other Wild and Scenic Rivers and in particular on the Upper Farmington River where a Wild and Scenic Committee has been in place for over 15 years.</p>	<p>Impacts on Protection of Identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)</p> <p>Alternative C would provide a lesser degree of protection to the ORVs due to extended exclusion areas above, and below the Rainbow Dam, where SBD has expressed interest in raising the flashboards on the dam and in the development of a hydro site in the vicinity of the Route 75 bridge. Under Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a FERC licensed project is permitted on river segments upstream or downstream of a designated river segment as long as the project does not invade the area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the area at the time of designation. Excluding additional river segments from designation could result in FERC licensed projects or federally funded/assisted projects. Projects on the non-designated river segments could impact the values for which the river is proposed for designation.</p> <p>Under this alternative, river segments both above (by raising flashboards) and below (by hydro development at a new site) the existing Rainbow Dam could be inundated, resulting in ponded conditions that could impact the identified ORVs, on a stretch of river targeted by the DEP as a high priority for protection and restoration of aquatic life. A new dam site could present a barrier to fish passage/ migration, and to recreational uses. and could impact water quality. Over time progress toward habitat and fish restoration would be reduced.</p>

5.H. Impact of Alternatives—Impacts on Socio-Economic Values

Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Full Designation	Alternative C: Partial Designation
<p>Impacts on Socio-Economic Values</p> <p>Under Alternative A, long-term impacts to socio-economic values could be anticipated relative to non-designation scenarios. For instance, there would be no designation-related special recognition of the Farmington and Salmon Brook and their associated resources. In addition, resource-related protection that a designation offers would not be available through consistent long-term implementation of the Management Plan or through reviews conducted under Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, likely resulting in some level of degradation of the free-flowing conditions, ORVs and water quality of the rivers. Over the long-term, small incremental detrimental changes could affect local quality of life. Indicators of quality of life related to the river can include home prices, sense of place, and availability of high water quality source for human needs and recreational uses, as well as other related values. The proactive protection and enhancement strategies of the Management Plan aimed at maximizing the natural, cultural and recreational values to the abutting communities would see less implementation, thus reducing, over time, the value of these resources to the community.</p> <p>With widespread local support for extending the Wild and Scenic River designation to the confluence with the Connecticut River it is anticipated that the river communities would be dissatisfied with a non-designation result. River communities and stakeholders would not have access to the opportunities and associated prestige the designation affords, and that communities along the Upper Farmington River gained access to through Wild and Scenic designation 15 years ago.</p> <p>Alternative A could result in the development of hydroelectric projects promoted by SBD, and/or the ability to pursue other federally assisted/funded water resource projects. Other former and historical dam sites on the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook could likewise attract potential hydroelectric proposals. The feasibility of any such proposals is highly speculative and influenced by such factors as energy prices, government renewable energy incentives, availability of appropriate hydro technology, the larger state and federal regulatory climate, and other factors.</p>	<p>Impacts on Socio-Economic Values</p> <p>Alternative B would maximize the natural, cultural, and recreational resource values of a Wild and Scenic designation in the form of river focused community-based values, consistent with wide support expressed by local town leaders. Over time it would be reasonable to expect that quality of life values, home prices, tourism, and similar socio-economic standards might be preserved or increased through such efforts. High quality, protected river resources have been shown in numerous studies to have such positive economic community benefits. There could be some long-term shift in the nature, type, or density of adjacent land uses based on respect for river health. Landowners along the watercourses may be more likely to adopt voluntary protection strategies and support adoption of the recommended protection tools by the land use commissions due to the pride associated with a designation. There would be increased incentive for river communities to work cooperatively on river resource issues to benefit all. An increase in volunteer service would also result from the designation.</p> <p>Under this alternative, FERC licensed water resource projects are not permitted and other federally funded/assisted water resource projects could be restricted. Full designation therefore results in a loss of the potential future development of hydro. At this time the strong community support for designation and protection of river-related resources indicates that there is not strong local interest in pursuing new hydro. It is feasible that in the future the local energy needs or economic conditions could shift and that appropriate technology for hydro power could be desirable.</p> <p>Alternative B allows for continued exploration for re-developing hydro (by the communities of Avon, Burlington, and Canton) at the existing Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams. A recent assessment of the dams indicated that re-tooling the dams for hydro is structurally feasible, though the economic viability is not yet clear.</p>	<p>Impacts on Socio-Economic Values</p> <p>Alternative C would also result in highlighting the natural, cultural and recreational resource values of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook as river focused community-based values. Many of the positive impacts outlined in Alternative B would also occur for this alternative. However, if the exclusion were extended upstream and downstream of Rainbow Dam there would be a diminished sense of continuity due to the gap in protection that might lead to long-term erosion of quality of life, home prices and related values if degradation of the river and its values were to occur. With a new dam the river would be impounded and properties adjacent to the river would be flooded. In particular, riverfront landowners in the Town of Windsor would experience a decline in quality of life and decrease in property values over time if a federally permitted project is proposed. If such a proposal were pursued by the SBD company, it would require FERC licensing, and the public benefit of such a change would be evaluated through such FERC licensing process.</p> <p>Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) has estimated that a new dam at this site would be a low-head dam totaling 13 feet in height, generating 10,000 megawatts of power per year, and powering about 800 homes. SBD deemed the development of hydro not economically feasible at this time.</p>

5.H. Impact of Alternatives—Anticipated Costs

Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Full Designation	Alternative C: Partial Designation
<p>Anticipated Costs There are no direct costs associated with this alternative. Over the long-term, however, there could be substantial indirect costs if important river values, including water quality and identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values, are allowed to deteriorate.</p>	<p>Anticipated Costs Direct costs of this alternative to the federal government may be anticipated to be comparable to the direct costs of similar designations in the NPS Northeast Region that provides seed funding for implementation of the Management Plan. In recent years, congressional appropriations through the National Park Service operating budget approximated \$175,000 for each of the twelve designated “Partnership National Wild and Scenic Rivers”. Some direct and indirect costs may also accrue to State agencies and non-governmental organizations partnering with the NPS through the Wild and Scenic Committee, if they choose to devote increased resources as compared to the no action alternative. Communities’ involvement is expected to be all-volunteer, while indirect costs may be accrued through projects willingly undertaken in partnership with the NPS and Wild and Scenic Committee. Indirect costs through increased attention to preservation of river values may also occur. However, there would also be shared resources and funding across town borders for the benefit of the river protection. Multiple opportunities for collaboration and pooling of resources with the upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Committee (FRCC) would provide economy in scale. There would also be opportunities for the Wild and Scenic Committee, towns and NGOs to leverage additional funding as a result of the seed funding provided by the National Park Service.</p> <p>Under this alternative, FERC licensed water resource projects are not permitted and other federally funded/assisted water resource projects could be restricted. Full designation therefore results in a loss of the potential future development of hydro. At this time the strong community support for designation and protection of river-related resources indicates that there is not strong local interest in pursuing new hydro. It is feasible that in the future the local energy needs or economic conditions could shift and that appropriate technology for hydro power could be desirable.</p> <p>Alternative B allows for continued exploration for re-developing hydro (by the communities of Avon, Burlington, and Canton) at the existing Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams. A recent assessment of the dams indicated that re-tooling the dams for hydro is structurally feasible, though the economic viability is not yet clear.</p>	<p>Anticipated Costs Direct short-term costs associated with this alternative should be similar to those observed in Alternative B.</p> <p>Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) has estimated that a new dam at this site would be a low-head dam totaling 13 feet in height, generating 10,000 megawatts of power per year, and powering about 800 homes. SBD deemed the development of hydro not economically feasible at this time.</p>

Impact of Alternatives Discussion

Alternative A: No Action

Alternative A fails to support protection and enhancement of the natural, cultural, and recreational Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This alternative would allow for the possibility of a slow loss of these values, contrary to the strongly expressed desires of adjacent communities and other river stakeholders demonstrated throughout the Wild and Scenic Study. Twenty years of accumulated experience on other Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers has demonstrated that each such river annually accomplishes many projects through the Wild and Scenic River Committees and with the assistance of NPS staff and congressional appropriations aimed at protecting and enhancing identified river ORVs. Absent, these Wild and Scenic Committee led efforts to implement action programs, it is reasonable to assume a corresponding deterioration (or lack of enhancement) would be observed over the long-term. Quality of life values may decline under this alternative and there would be less incentive and cooperative management structure for recognizing and protecting the special river values.

This alternative does not provide protection of free-flowing river conditions, as provided by Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that would prohibit FERC licensed water resource development projects, and provide the ability for the NPS to review federally funded/assisted water resource projects. If the river is not designated, the potential hydroelectric developments promoted by Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) (raising of Rainbow Dam to create more power potential at that existing facility and/or development of a new facility downstream of Rainbow Dam) could be pursued. Other former and historical dam sites on the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook could likewise attract potential hydroelectric proposals. SBD estimates that approximately 10,000 megawatts of power per year could be generated from a new 13-foot head dam site below the existing Rainbow Dam, or an equivalent of power for about 800 homes. This small amount of power makes development not currently considered economically feasible by SBD, though in the future such projects could be viable in the existence of different economic conditions

or if other conditions change such as the occurrence of high fuel prices, incentives for renewable energy or improved technologies. There are no other known dam sites on the Farmington River or Salmon Brook that have the capability of generating a large enough amount of power to make development feasible at this time, though again conditions could change in the future that provide increased incentive to dam the Farmington and Salmon Brook and damage free-flowing conditions.

No corresponding advantages to the No Action alternative are known, other than a slight savings in financial expenditures and human capital devoted to the river and its protection. These savings would likely be more than offset by resource value losses and the leveraging of volunteer support and funds through alternate sources that bring additional value to the designation. Without the designation there would be no increase in visibility and prestige that a Wild and Scenic designation affords.

There are no direct costs associated with this alternative. Over the long-term, however, there could be substantial indirect costs if important river values, including water quality and identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values, are allowed to deteriorate.

Alternative B. Full Designation

Alternative B is both the environmentally preferable alternative and the NPS preferred alternative. It is the most protective of the rivers' free-flowing character, water quality, and Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the designation alternatives considered. This option best reflects the desires of the Wild and Scenic Study Committee, communities and majority of river stakeholders. In particular it is the alternative supported by the Towns of Canton and Windsor that have river segments with dams. Under this alternative all currently eligible and suitable segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook would be designated. The exclusion of the segment of the river surrounding and including the Collinsville Dams would permit the towns to explore hydropower redevelopment of the existing Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams. Wild and Scenic designation of the Collinsville Dams and associated river segments could be evaluated in the future if FERC licensing for hydropower generation is not deemed economical through the town's feasibility

The ORVs were identified and documented by a team of experts as part of the Study process and were determined to be unique, rare or exemplary features on a regional and/ or national scale. . .

study. Under this scenario the CT DEP (owner of both dams) could consider removal of the Lower Collinsville Dam and development of fish passage at the Upper Collinsville Dam.

This alternative is also designed to protect the existing hydro operation of the Rainbow Dam owned and operated by the Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) corporation by excluding the Dam, its reservoir and associated facilities from the designated area. It would not, however, allow for expansion of Rainbow (raising of dam flashboard height), and would preclude exploration of other new FERC licensed hydro development (other than the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams sited above), including the Route 75 bridge site in Windsor proposed by SBD. This alternative could result in the reduction in the value of several SBD properties, and their flowage rights earmarked for hydro development. The properties and flowage rights in the vicinity of the Route 75 bridge have been owned long-term by SBD for this purpose. SBD has acknowledged that neither expansion of Rainbow nor the potential new development at Route 75 in Windsor is economically feasible at present, and in either case, the full development of a hydro proposal for this site would necessitate the acquisition of additional properties and/or flowage rights.

Similarly, other Farmington River sites and those associated with Salmon Brook are also viewed as unfeasible given present conditions. Over the long-term, however, it is conceivable that changing economic conditions, energy costs, new technologies, and increasing interest in renewable energy could render one or more of these potential developments viable, and Alternative B would preclude such future consideration in favor of protection for free-flowing river values.

This full designation alternative would provide special recognition and protection for the watercourses, and for the five identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for which the rivers would be designated. The ORVs were identified and documented by a team of experts as part of the Study process and were determined to be unique, rare or exemplary features on a regional and/ or national scale (the Eligibility Chapter of this report provides an overview of the ORVs and the Management Plan which serves as a companion document to this Study Report details the ORVs in depth).

The designation would also acknowledge the widespread support expressed by the State of Connecticut, river towns and stakeholders. Strong support for long-term protection of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook resources through a Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers' designation was clearly indicated through passage of state legislation, town leader votes and letters of support. This alternative is consistent with Town Council, Board of Selectmen and land use commission votes to support the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan and federal Wild and Scenic designation. In particular, the Windsor Town Council and Planning & Zoning Commission endorsed the Wild and Scenic designation contingent on the Rainbow Dam downstream boundary being situated below the tailrace as offered by this alternative.

Direct costs of this alternative to the federal government may be anticipated to be comparable to the direct costs of similar designations in the National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Region. In recent years, congressional appropriations through the National Park Service operating budget approximated \$175,000 for each of twelve designated "Partnership National Wild and Scenic Rivers". Some direct and indirect costs may also accrue to State agencies and non-governmental organizations partnering with the NPS through the Wild and Scenic Committee, if they decide to devote more resources toward the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook than they would with the no action alternative. Local communities' direct involvement is expected to be all-volunteer, while indirect costs may be accrued through projects undertaken in partnership with the NPS and Wild and Scenic Committee. Indirect costs through increased attention to preservation of river values may also occur when partners decide to participate. However, significant long-term savings would be gained with this alternative by preventing costs associated with loss or deterioration of important river values, including water quality and identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values. There would also be shared resources and funding across town borders for the benefit of greater river protection. Wild and Scenic designation would provide opportunities to coordinate projects and funding through the Wild and

Scenic Committee, towns, and NGOs, and to leverage additional funding as a result of the small amount of seed funding provided by the NPS. The river towns would realize an increase in prestige and visibility due to the designation. This increase may have a positive local economic impact. The communities have acknowledged the benefit of a funding source for river-related conservation work that is critical to protecting and enhancing local resources and quality of life.

Based on the study, "Use and Economic Importance of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook," the river, the brook, and their corridors are highly valued by residents, businesses and recreational users who strongly support a Wild and Scenic River designation as a way to further river protection. Survey respondents' support is based on the sense of place that the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook provide, and more strongly on the diverse recreational options which the watercourses offer. The Real Estate portion of the study indicated that homebuyers are willing to pay approximately \$14,000 more to be within one mile of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Alternative C. Partial Designation

Alternative C is similar to Alternative B, however offers diminished long-term protection of the free-flowing river character and natural, cultural and recreational Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), while allowing for exploration of potential new hydroelectric development options through expansion of the existing Rainbow Dam and potential new facility construction below Rainbow at Route 75 in Windsor.

This alternative would allow future consideration of a water resource project such as a new dam on the Farmington River segment in the Poquonock section (Route 75) of the Town of Windsor, or the consideration of raising of Rainbow Dam flashboards. These alternative boundaries were brought forward by Stanley Black & Decker (SBD). New FERC licensed hydro projects could impact the free-flow of the river, the identified ORVs such as the diversity of aquatic life, and recreational use, as well as harming an important fish migration route. Construction of a dam or other type of river impoundment would impair the DEP's progress toward supporting fish diversity and restoring migrating fish to

the Farmington River. The DEP has stated it would oppose any new dams along this river segment.

This alternative would also allow for future FERC consideration of the potential for SBD to raise flashboards on the existing Rainbow Dam up to the stated maximum engineering height of 13 feet above the dam crest. Such a project could potentially convert approximately 0.5 miles of currently free-flowing river into a ponded state, thereby diminishing free-flowing character of this river segment. Associated identified ORVs such as biological diversity (e.g. mussels, fish and plants) and recreational use of the Tariffville Gorge would be impacted. The DEP does not support any changes to the current footprint of the Rainbow Dam.

Construction of a new dam or raising of flashboards would provide an additional quantity of local renewable energy and an enlarged impounded area with the potential for a variety of recreational opportunities such as fishing or boating.

If at some point in the future if either of these projects is pursued by the SBD corporation, FERC licensing would be required, and the public benefit versus the impacts of such a project would be evaluated through a FERC licensing process.

Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not preclude FERC licensing of a water resource project so long as the project does not invade the designated area or unreasonably diminish the fish, wildlife, scenic or recreational values within this area that were present as of its designation. State and local protections for the river would remain in place and could possibly prevent expansion of Rainbow Reservoir or a new dam from being licensed, however, only through the Wild and Scenic Rivers designation can protection of the free-flowing character of this segment be assured.

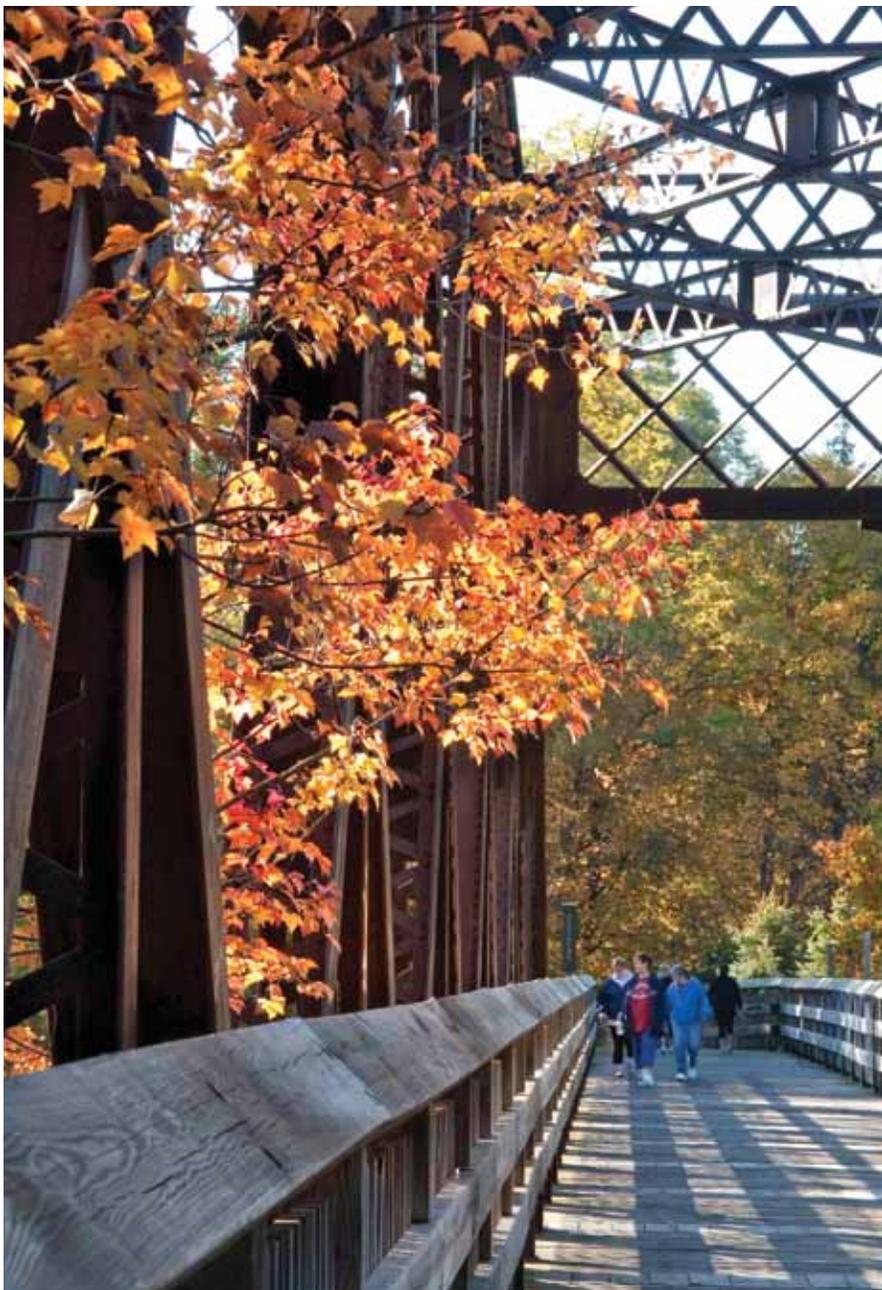
The Study Committee also acknowledged that there are many factors that make construction highly unlikely including the high cost of development versus the estimated small amount of power generation and the fact that SBD does not currently own sufficient land or flow rights necessary to impound water at this location. Additionally, the Town of Windsor supports designation of this segment and

Based on the study, "Use and Economic Importance of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook," the river, the brook, and their corridors are highly valued by residents, businesses and recreational users who strongly support a Wild and Scenic River designation as a way to further river protection.

has reported that there would likely be local opposition to such a hydro project.

This alternative was requested by Stanley Black & Decker (SBD) through its representative to the Study Committee in order to allow the possible future development of hydropower downstream of their existing Rainbow Dam and to raise flashboards on the dam. The remainder of the Wild and Scenic Study Committee did not support the alternative because it is contradictory to the purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and to the Committee's charge to protect the free-flowing character of the river and ORVs. The Study Committee, Town Councils of Windsor and Bloomfield, and CT DEP do not support this Alternative.

Photo: Tom Cameron



Direct short-term costs associated with this alternative should be similar to those observed in Alternative B, with the exception of possible diminished property values due to flooding, if the river segment is excluded and a dam is constructed. The FERC licensing process would fully evaluate any new hydroelectric development proposal in the context of potential project benefits opposed to adverse impacts.

This Alternative does not meet expectations and desires expressed during the Wild and Scenic River Study or as directed by the Windsor Town Council and land use commission votes that were contingent on support for designating this river segment. The Bloomfield Town Council does not support the extended upper boundary.

5.I. Cumulative Impacts

The main purpose of designation can in many ways be seen as a way to preserve the existing condition of river-related resources (i.e. to prevent degradation of resources), as well as to protect the waterways from the cumulative impacts of activities in and adjacent to the streams. For the most part, local and state regulatory measures are currently in place that protect the resources. The principal effect and impact of Wild and Scenic River designation is to add specific Wild and Scenic River protections and federal funding/assistance opportunities onto the existing framework of local, state and federal river management and protection. These protections are tightly aimed at protecting and enhancing a river's free-flowing character, water quality, and identified "outstandingly remarkable" natural, cultural and recreational resource values. In addition, Section 7 of the Act indeed has the stated purpose of preventing federal assistance to water resource development projects that would have a "direct and adverse impact" to free-flow, water quality and identified ORV's. Under Alternative B (full designation), Section 7 protections would be in place for all eligible and suitable segments, providing permanent and maximum protection to the free-flowing character from potentially adverse federally assisted water resource development projects. Under Alternative C (partial designation) or in the absence of a Wild and Scenic designation entirely, federally funded or permitted projects could have a significant adverse impact to the river's resources over time. Hydroelectric

projects could be expanded or developed under either of these scenarios that could result in degradation of free-flowing character or loss of resources that are described in detail within this report. Under the partial designation alternative river segments both above (by raising flashboards) and below (by hydro development at a new site) the existing Rainbow Dam could be inundated, resulting in ponded conditions that could impact the Outstandingly Remarkable Values, on a stretch of river targeted by the DEP as a high priority for protection and restoration of aquatic life. A new dam site could present a barrier to fish passage/ migration, and to recreational uses and could impact water quality. Over time progress toward habitat and fish restoration would be reduced. The no action alternative would provide no additional review or scrutiny of Army Corps permits or other federal assistance projects related to the river. Over time the absence of this additional scrutiny and regulatory protection could allow for degradation of free-flowing character through rip-rap, channel alterations, or similar projects. Any such degradation would be expected to be long-term and incremental in nature. The full designation alternative provides the maximum protection to free-flowing character from other forms of federally/assisted water resource development projects. Over time, this additional protection and project scrutiny could have the effect of better preserving and/or enhancing free-flowing river character and natural stream channel conditions.

Documentation of baseline conditions as a part of the Wild and Scenic Study provides the starting point from which future change can be measured. And, while opportunities to enhance resources are certainly identified as a part of the designations' and management plans' objectives, such opportunities are incremental in nature, with no dramatic change anticipated immediately as a result of designation. Over the long-term, small incremental positive changes could have the affect of added protection and enhancement of the river's free-flowing character, water quality and resources.

Whether the impact being considered is that of increased scrutiny to federal permits such as those of the Army Corps of Engineers or the impacts of federal financial and technical assistance, virtually all impacts are of a

long-term and incremental nature, with the predominant effect of designation being preservation of existing conditions. The only exception to this general rule is the case of major federally assisted water resource development projects, particularly FERC licensed hydroelectric facilities that would be precluded by designation. In this case, there can be a dramatic impact of designation. For this reason, much of the attention in the comparison of alternatives is devoted to this potential impact, and the manner in which the different alternatives would potentially affect future hydroelectric development on the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

5.J. Public Involvement, Consultations and Coordination

Introduction

This section documents the consultation and coordination procedures with federal, state and local agencies, governing bodies and the public outreach and education process employed throughout the Wild and Scenic Study. Refer to the appendices for examples of outreach and education materials utilized during the Study.

A high level of consultation and coordination occurred all through the Wild and Scenic Study and resulted in the successful involvement of the public, local communities, the state, federal agencies and experts in the Study Process and in the endorsement of designation by towns of the study area and by the state legislature. Given that the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers approach was employed in conducting this Study, there was an emphasis on local collaborative process. The locally appointed Study Committee of town representatives and river stakeholders, with support from the NPS, led the effort to engage the public in every aspect of the Study. Of central importance was the partners' development of the Management Plan that offers recommendations for protection and enhancement of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. This planning process included widespread opportunity for input, comment, and review.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Bill S. 495 was signed into law by President Bush on November 27, 2006. In April of 2007 a locally appointed committee of town representatives and river stakeholders

Given that the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers approach was employed in conducting this Study, there was an emphasis on local collaborative process.

began participating in the Wild and Scenic Study process with support from and in consultation with National Park Service staff (Refer to Chapter 1.B. for a detailed listing of Study Committee members). A great deal of time and care was taken over the course of the intensive four-year Wild and Scenic Rivers Study to ensure that adequate communication occurred and that there was ample time for comments and input from all interested agencies, governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, and the public. Consultations with experts and ensuing research results contributed to the body of knowledge required to determine the river's eligibility for designation. Numerous types of communication techniques were utilized to extend and share information about the possible designation, results of research, and study findings. Additionally, providing opportunities for frequent input and extensive stakeholder review of the Management Plan were steps paramount to the successful development of the Management Plan.

Given that the upper 14-miles of the Farmington River gained the Wild and Scenic designation in 1994 and that two of the lower river Study Towns already participate on the upper Farmington River Coordinating Committee, there were many opportunities for local education regarding the value of a successfully implemented designation in neighboring communities.

Photo: Chris Mathein



Consultations

Federal

As outlined in Section 4.(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, copies of this Study Report and Environmental Assessment will be furnished to the head of any affected Federal department or agency for recommendations or comments for a ninety-day review period. Comments will also be received on-line through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>.

In addition to the review of the draft Study Report and Environmental Assessment during the Wild and Scenic Study, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was called upon to provide expertise regarding fish passage issues and endangered mussel research related to the potential redevelopment of hydropower at the Collinsville Dams. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided guidance related to the existence of federally endangered species in the vicinity of a public boat launch reconstruction project in Simsbury. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires all federal agencies to consult with the FWS to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by a federal agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat (Data on state and federal endangered species is collected through the CT DEP's Natural Diversity Data Base).

As outlined in Section 4.(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, copies of this Study Report and Environmental Assessment Draft will be furnished to the head of any affected Federal department or agency for recommendations or comments for a ninety-day review period. Comments will also be received on-line through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>.

Tribal

The Wild and Scenic Study did not identify the existence of any tribal lands impacted by this study nor were there any tribal representatives required to participate in the Study process.

Copies of the Study Report will be made available to tribal representatives within Connecticut.



**Town of Avon Community
Open House**

State

In 2008 the State of Connecticut General Assembly passed a bill unanimously supporting the Wild and Scenic Rivers designation and committing the state to cooperation in implementing the local advisory Management Plan. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) is the state agency represented on the Wild and Scenic Study Committee and as per the Connecticut state legislation (Public Act 08-37):

...shall cooperate with all relevant federal, state and local agencies to provide for such designation and to implement any management plan developed in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Upon the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook by Congress, the commissioner shall notify the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment regarding any statutory changes necessary to implement the preservation and conservation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The commissioner shall cause a copy of this section to be delivered to all United States Representatives and Senators representing Connecticut in the Congress of the United States.

The CT DEP was an active participant and cooperator throughout and was extensively consulted on all aspects of the Wild and Scenic Study via three DEP staff

persons that served as Study Committee representatives. Additionally, consultations were conducted with more than 20 DEP staff persons associated with the Office of the Commissioner, the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse (Inland Water Resources Division, Planning and Standards Division), and the Bureau of Natural Resources (Inland Fisheries, Wildlife Division). The DEP participated in the preparation and review of the Management Plan and provided data and input on the Outstandingly Remarkable Resources including water quality and biodiversity. A Study Committee representative from the DEP staff conducted a State Regulatory Review (see Appendices of the Management Plan). Other consultations with the DEP related to the collection of detailed information regarding Study area mapping, dam inventories of the Study Rivers, and fish migration and fish passage issues related to the existing dams. Consultations with both the State Office of Archaeology and State Historic Preservation Office revealed detailed documentation of the existence of cultural resources (archaeological resources and National Register listed resources).

During the course of the Wild and Scenic Study the Salmon Brook was officially designated as a Connecticut Greenway by the State of Connecticut.

Public Involvement

Outreach and Education

The Study Committee held monthly public meetings for four years in part to support the

...meetings served to educate, gain input, and seek recommendations for the development of the Management Plan as well as to keep the public engaged in the study and aware of its progress.

local process of facilitating public involvement in the Study process and in the development of the Management Plan that forms the basis of the designation and guides subsequent management. The Committee's role was also to assess local support for the designation. A comprehensive outreach and education campaign was developed and carried out to access many different audiences. The NPS—FRWA Cooperative Agreement (referenced above) provided the local mechanism for using appropriated NPS funding to support the Study Committee's public outreach and education efforts and to conduct cooperative research. An important element of the study approach was to involve the interested public to the greatest extent possible through an intensive education campaign. The wide-reaching plan for education carried through in a series of meetings, presentations, open houses, workshops, booths at events, newsletters, posters, news articles, and mailings. Public input was sought all through the Study and in particular at key junctures in the process.

Major outreach and education efforts included:

- **Six Newsletters** covering the Outstandingly Remarkable Values, topics of interest and updates on the Wild and Scenic Study process were mailed, emailed, and distributed by hand locally during the study period. Newsletters and informational postcards were distributed to town libraries, local stores, and other locations.
- **Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Website** was developed early on in the Study process. Along with many important documents displayed, the Management Plan was posted to encourage formal public comment and review.
- **Numerous Meetings** were held in all ten towns throughout the study process. The purpose was to educate town staff and residents about the process, to gather public comments, and to inform town boards, commissions, and the public on important study milestones. Depending on the individual town's needs, meetings were held at a variety of points during the study including at the start of the Study, mid-point and towards the end. The meetings covered Wild and Scenic Rivers Act background and

ongoing progress of the Study Committee. The meetings served to educate, gain input, and seek recommendations for the development of the Management Plan as well as to keep the public engaged in the study and aware of its progress. A schedule of some of the town meetings is included in Appendix 5.

- **Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) Workshop** was a four-day series was attended by approximately 35 community leaders representing all of the ten study towns, including members of local land use commissions and boards, land trust members, town land use staff, town leaders, a developer, and Wild and Scenic Study Committee representatives. This unique, time-intensive training allowed Study Committee members and local land use decision makers to exchange ideas and information. Participants provided critical input toward the development of the Management Plan and built a sense of ownership of the management development process by local leaders in the Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study. LULA trainers demonstrated how Connecticut's enabling legislation can be used to strengthen regulations that protect natural resources. In addition, the leaders provided tools and collaborative techniques for communities to employ in order to work toward achieving low impact development that is protective of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. The list of participants is included in Appendix 5.
- **Meetings** with Connecticut State Representatives for the Study Area and with the Chair of the Environment Committee at the end of 2007 and early in 2008, which led to broad support and unanimous passage of Public Act No. 08-37, An Act Concerning Designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Act, which Governor Rell signed into law on May 7, 2008, conveys the state's support for designation and directs the CT DEP to cooperate with the implementation of the Management Plan. See the Appendix for a copy of the Act.
- **Draft distribution** of the Municipal Plan & Regulation Review to appropriate town staff and boards for comment and input in March

Wild and Scenic library display
Photo: Paula Jones





Community residents learn about Wild and Scenic designation at Community Open House

2008. This critical step furthered the dialog with towns regarding the development of the Management Plan.

- **Community Open Houses in Four Towns** were widely publicized and drew over 100 people. Educational materials on display included exhibits, maps, research studies, and multi-media presentations. Representatives from the Study Committee were present to educate the public regarding proposed management priorities for protecting the key resource values. Soliciting feedback for the Management Plan from the public was a primary objective of the open houses.
- **Mailings, press releases, and signage** were used to inform the public of the Wild and Scenic Study. Letters announcing the commencement of the study and explaining the study goals and opportunities for participation were sent to riverfront landowners. There were numerous articles in regional, local, and town newspapers as well as in local organizations' and partners' newsletters.
- **A Wild and Scenic Study Booth was displayed at fairs and local events in all ten towns** and was staffed by the Study

Committee representatives. An extensive schedule of participation was developed and over the course of the Study the group participated in well over 50 events. A 2008 event schedule can be found in Appendix 5.

- **Additional Meetings, presentations, phone calls, and email messages** with town staff members and leaders, kept them up-to-date and facilitated communications and collaboration between land use commissions and the Study Committee.
- In addition, a subcommittee on outreach and education developed a comprehensive plan for engaging a broad spectrum of the public. Additional methods of communication that were utilized included:
- Library display was circulated to all ten Study Towns.
 - Radio Program dedicated to the Wild and Scenic Study was broadcast on Connecticut and Massachusetts Public Radio *Field Notes* program.
 - Video presentation was developed and shown on local TV stations, posted on website, shown at Community Open Houses, and submitted and shown at the Farmington Film Commission Summer Fete and Mixer.

- Local TV program interviewed committee members. This program was distributed and also aired on all local TV station in the Study Area along with an additional Farmington River feature that was distributed nationally by Comcast.
- Power Point was developed. The presentation was given at town meeting and non-governmental organization meetings.
- Posters and postcards with eye-catching designs and information were widely distributed.
- Printed materials included contact and website information as well as requests for questions, input, and comments.

Examples of education and outreach materials are provided in Appendix 5.

Town Meetings

In addition to the regular monthly Study Committee meetings that were publicized locally and open to the public, there were meetings conducted in all ten towns throughout the Study. The purpose was to educate residents about the process, to gather public comments, and to inform town boards, commissions, and the public on important study milestones. The meetings covered Wild and Scenic Rivers Act background and ongoing progress of the Study Committee and served to educate, gain input, and seek recommendations for the development of the Management Plan as well as to keep the public engaged in the study and aware of its progress. Small group meetings were also held with town staff and officials to share preliminary Study results and receive feedback.

Town meetings occurred throughout the Study period. Generally there was an initial educational presentation to town leaders, boards, and committees followed by updates given by Study Committee town representatives at regular intervals and when there was important data to present or input to gather. In particular, town meetings were vital to developing the Management Plan through a broadly participatory process with guidance from locally-based representatives in consultation with the towns.

The following is a sampling of some of the meetings held in each town:

Avon: Town Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Natural Resources

Bloomfield: Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee

Burlington: Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission

Canton: Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission, Town Hydro Committee

East Granby: Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission

Farmington: Town Council, Conservation Commission

Granby: Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation

Hartland: Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Simsbury: Board of Selectmen, Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission

Windsor: Town Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Other Meetings

A four-day Land Use Leadership Alliance Workshop was conducted was held on April 24, May 15 and 29 and June 5, 2009. The series was attended by approximately 35 community leaders representing all of the ten study towns, including members of local land use commissions and boards, land trust members, town land use staff, town leaders, a developer, and Wild and Scenic Study Committee representatives. This unique time-intensive training allowed Study Committee members and local land use decision makers to exchange ideas and information. Participants provided critical input toward the development of the Management Plan and built a sense of ownership of the management development process by local leaders in the Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study.

A series of four Community Open Houses were held to unveil a draft version of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook

Community and state endorsement of the Management Plan substantiates eligibility for designation by demonstrating commitment to river conservation.



Congressman John Larson with Wild and Scenic Study Committee members at local event.

Management Plan and solicit public feedback and comments during this formal public review. The Open Houses were held in the centrally located towns of Canton, East Granby, and Farmington in October and November of 2009 and in Avon in April of 2010. They were widely publicized and drew over 100 people. Educational materials on display included exhibits, maps, research studies, and multi-media presentations.

Study Committee representatives also met with the Farmington Valley Collaborative (a consortium of leaders from the towns of Avon, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Granby, Farmington, and Simsbury) several times to share and exchange ideas regarding the study.

Presentations made to local organizations and meetings with interested members of the public afforded additional opportunities for the public to participate in the public review of the Management Plan. The locally appointed town representatives to the Study Committee were responsible for remaining in close communication with town staff, leaders, and boards, and available to answer questions from community members throughout the Study. The local NPS Study Coordinator was also available for technical guidance and support.

5.K. Local Support for Management Plan and Wild and Scenic Designation

Though the management plan is completely advisory, it is critical that so many partners have had an active role in developing its recommendations, and in that light endorsed the strategies that can be used to protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. This commitment of the various partners in river protection, a commitment developed and reaffirmed throughout the study process, will foster effective implementation. Community and state endorsement of the Management Plan substantiates eligibility for designation by demonstrating commitment to river conservation.

Commitment to Management Plan implementation has been demonstrated locally by continued land conservation efforts, revision of land use and wetland regulations (to reflect recommendations in the *Municipal Plan and Regulation Review*), and through policies that recognize the importance of protecting land in the river corridor and the value of designating the watercourses.

Final meetings in all ten towns were convened to request endorsements for the Wild and Scenic designation and approval of the Management Plan. All ten Study Towns leaders indicated their positive support by voting in favor of the Wild and Scenic

designation and of the Management Plan. In addition, many of the town boards and commissions voted in the affirmative. Many local and regional organizations and individuals also wrote letters in support of the designation. The support indicates that there is a demonstrated commitment to protect the river and be a partner in the implementation of recommendations in the Management Plan. The Town of Avon initially declined to support, but after further education and a more intensive education program aimed at riverfront landowners, the town leaders voted unanimously to endorse the designation. Understandably, the town wanted to be duly certain that residents were given every opportunity to participate in the study process.

5.L. Preparers and Contributors

National Park Service Northeast Region Study Team

Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Study Coordinator

Jamie Fosburgh, New England Team Leader

Chuck Barszcz, Division Chief

Jacki Katzmire, Regional Environmental Coordinator

National Park Service Advisors

Tokey Boswell, WASO Office of Park Planning and Special Studies

Cassie Thomas, WASO Office of Park Planning and Special Studies

Local Study Committee

Study Committee Representatives from ten towns of Study Area, CT DEP, Stanley Black & Decker, Farmington River Watershed Association, Salmon Brook Watershed Association, Pequabuck River Watershed Association, Tariffville Village Association, Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Expert Advisors: Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

Geology ORV

Ralph Lewis, Certified Professional Geologist, State Geologist of CT from 1997-2003

Brendan Hanrahan, Author of the book "Great Day Trips to Discover the Geology of Connecticut" that is part of a series of four books on the natural history of Connecticut

Jelle deBoer, Wesleyan Geologist Professor Emeritus

Janet Stone, USGS, Eastern Earth Surfaces Process Team

Kip Kolesinskas, State of CT, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Water Quality ORV

Michael Beauchene, Connecticut DEP Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse Planning and Standards Division

Ernest Pizzuto, Supervising Environmental Analyst CT DEP Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse Planning Division

Alisa Phillips-Griggs, Farmington River Watershed Association Water Quality Coordinator

Biological Diversity ORV*

Hank Gruner, CT Science Center

William Moorhead, Field Botanist

Steve Gephard, Head of DEP Inland Fisheries Division's Diadromous Fish Program

Jeff Bolton, FRWA GIS Specialist

Don Mysling, DEP Inland Fisheries Division

Ed Machowski, DEP Inland Fisheries Division

Ethan Nedeau, Aquatic Biologist Specializing in Mussels

*The Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project results laid important groundwork for this ORV.

Cultural Landscape ORV

Kenneth Feder, Professor of Anthropology, Central Connecticut State University

Marc Banks, Professional Archaeologist

John Harmon, Professor of Geography, Central Connecticut State University

Leah Glaser, Professor of History, Central Connecticut State University

Carl Walters, Farmington Canal Historian

Recreation ORV

Ben Tyson, Professor, Department of Communication, Central Connecticut State University

James Thorson, Professor of Economics and Finance, Southern Connecticut state University

6.M. List of Recipients

The Study Report and Environmental Assessment Draft will be made available for public comment through the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment website and notice of availability will be published in the local paper.

Federal Agency Heads:

- Secretary of the Interior
 - Secretary of Agriculture
 - Chief of Army Corps of Engineers
 - Administrator Environmental Protection Agency
 - Chairman of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
 - Administrator of Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - Administrator of Department of Transportation Federal Highways Department
 - Head of any other affected federal department or agency
-

Regional and State Federal Agency Heads:

- Regional Forester of Eastern Region 9 of USDA Forest Service
 - State Conservationist of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - Commander and District Engineer of New England District of Army Corp of Engineers
 - Northeast Regional Director of US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Regional Administrator Region 1 of Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - Regional Administrator Region 1 of Environmental Protection Agency
 - Connecticut Division Administrator of US Department of Transportation Federal Highways Department
 - Head of any other affected federal department or agency
-

State of Connecticut:

- Governor Daniel P. Malloy
-

CT DEP:

Daniel Esty, Commissioner

Amey Marrella, Deputy Commissioner

Betsey Wingfield, Bureau Chief of Water Protection and Land Reuse Chief

Susan Frechette, Deputy Commissioner of Outdoor Recreation & Natural Resources

William Hyatt, Bureau Chief of Natural Resources Bureau Chief

Matthew Fritz, Bureau Chief of Outdoor Recreation

Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Study documents will be posted on the following websites for public view and formal comment:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

<http://lowerfarmingtonriver.org/>

Appendices



Photo: Tom Cameron

Appendix 1: Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Study Act

PUBLIC LAW 109-370—NOV. 27, 2006 120 STAT. 2643
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 435:
SENATE REPORTS: No. 109-189 (Comm. On Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 151 (2005): Dec. 16, considered and passed Senate.
Vol. 152 (2006): Nov. 13, considered and passed House.

Public Law 109-370
109th Congress
An Act

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL SEGMENT OF FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK IN CONNECTICUT FOR STUDY FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(139) LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK, CONNECTICUT.—

The segment of the Farmington River downstream from the segment designated as a recreational river by section 3(a)(156) to its confluence with the Connecticut River, and the segment of the Salmon Brook including its mainstream and east and west branches.”.

(b) TIME FOR SUBMISSION.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study required by the amendment made by subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved November 27, 2006.

Appendix 2: State of Connecticut Wild and Scenic Legislation



House Bill No. 5143

Public Act No. 08-37

AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF THE LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK WITHIN THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) It is declared to be the policy of the state of Connecticut that the portion of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook which is the subject of the authorized study by the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Committee for purposes of designation as a national wild and scenic rivers system be preserved as provided for in the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, as amended.

(b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall cooperate with all relevant federal, state and local agencies to provide for such designation and to implement any management plan developed in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Upon the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook by Congress, the commissioner shall notify the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment regarding any statutory changes necessary to implement the preservation and conservation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The commissioner shall cause a copy of this section to be delivered to all United States Representatives and Senators representing Connecticut in the Congress of the United States.

Approved May 7, 2008

Appendix 3: Record of Endorsements and Support for The Wild and Scenic Designation (State, Towns, Organizations, and Individuals)



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



March 26, 2010

Sally Rieger, Study Chair
Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Study Coordinator
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger and Ms. Kennedy Raymes,

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) supports the proposed Wild & Scenic designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The Department has participated in similar study committees that worked to successfully obtain designation for both the Upper Farmington River and Eight Mile River, the two existing Wild & Scenic partnership rivers in Connecticut. DEP continues to actively participate in and support the committees established to oversee Connecticut's Wild & Scenic designated areas.

The proposed designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook is complementary to DEP's mission to conserve, improve and protect the natural resources and environment of the State in such a manner as to encourage the social and economic development of Connecticut while preserving the natural environment and the life forms it supports. The "outstanding resource values" that have been identified as making the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook areas unique and significant – geology, water quality, biological diversity, cultural landscape and recreation – mirror DEP's objectives. Likewise, the Department recognizes that successful accomplishment of its goals relies on cooperative partnerships with others. The management plan being drafted by the study committee in support of the proposed designation focuses on proactive strategies that can be determined and implemented at the local level, where most important land use decisions are made. The federal technical and financial assistance that will become available if designation is granted will be an important element in complementing State resources to achieve desired natural resource and environmental goals, and maintain the quality of life that the citizens of Connecticut have come to expect.

The Department appreciates this opportunity to express its support for the proposed Wild & Scenic designation. Once designated, DEP intends to remain an active partner associated with the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic area.

Yours truly,


for Amy W. Marrella
Commissioner

AWM/scp

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TOWN OF AVON

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POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCY - 911

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ACCOUNTING Tel. (860) 409-4339 Fax (860) 677-2847

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BUILDING DEPARTMENT Tel. (860) 409-4316 Fax (860) 409-4321

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE Tel. (860) 409-4306 Fax (860) 677-8428

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HUMAN RESOURCES Tel. (860) 409-4303 Fax (860) 409-4366

LANDFILL 281 Huckleberry Hill Rd. Tel. (860) 673-3677

PLANNING & ZONING Tel. (860) 409-4328 Fax (860) 409-4375

POLICE DEPARTMENT Tel. (860) 409-4200 Fax (860) 409-4206

PROMOTE Tel. (860) 409-4348 Fax (860) 409-4368

PUBLIC LIBRARY 281 Country Club Road Tel. (860) 673-9712 Fax (860) 675-6364

PUBLIC WORKS 11 Arch Road Tel. (860) 673-6151 Fax (860) 673-0338

RECREATION AND PARKS Tel. (860) 409-4332 Fax (860) 409-4334 Cancellation (860) 409-4365

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS Tel. (860) 409-4350 Fax (860) 409-4368

SOCIAL SERVICES Tel. (860) 409-4346 Fax (860) 409-4366

TOWN CLERK Tel. (860) 409-4310 Fax (860) 677-8428

TOD-HEARING IMPAIRED Tel. (860) 409-4361

June 10, 2010

Mr. Harry Spring Avon Wild & Scenic Study Committee Representative 41 Chidsey Road Avon, CT 06001

Ms. Joyce Kennedy-Raymes, Study Coordinator Ms. Eileen Fielding, Executive Director Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Farmington River Watershed Association 749 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Mr. Spring, Ms. Kennedy-Raymes, and Ms. Fielding,

Please be advised that the Town Council considered the following agenda item at the regular meeting held on June 3rd: Farmington River Wild and Scenic Designation. Following discussion, the Town Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in support of the Wild and Scenic designation for the Farmington River, as it passes through the Town of Avon.

Thank you for attending the meeting. In addition, thank you for addressing the Town's questions regarding the impact of the designation. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance with the process required to obtain the federal designation.

Sincerely,

[Signature of Brandon Robertson]

Brandon Robertson Town Manager

BR/jw

CC: Steven Kushner, Director of Planning & Community Development Congressman Chris Murphy



TOWN OF AVON

March 3, 2010

60 West Main Street

POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCY - 911

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TOWN CLERK Tel. (860) 409-4310 Fax (860) 677-8428

TOD-HEARING IMPAIRED Tel. (860) 409-4361

Mr. Mark Zacchio, Chairman Avon Town Council 60 West Main Street Avon, CT 06001

Dear Mr. Zacchio:

At the Inland Wetlands Commission's meetings held on January 5 and February 2, 2010, members of the Farmington River Watershed Association presented, to the Commission, their findings regarding a study of the Farmington River and their interest in designating the River as a "Wild and Scenic River" under a program administered by the National Park Service. In attendance at the meetings were Eileen Fielding, Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association; Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Study Coordinator, Farmington River Watershed Association, and Staff liaison to the National Park Service; and Henry Spring, Avon's Wild & Scenic Study Committee Representative.

I am writing to inform you that on March 2, 2010, the Inland Wetlands Commission, by a formal vote, indicated their support of the Wild and Scenic Designation for the Farmington River, as it passes through the Town of Avon.

If we can provide you with any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

[Signature of Clifford Thier]

Cliff Thier, Chairman Inland Wetlands Commission

Copy: Eileen Fielding, FRWA; Joyce Kennedy Raymes, FRWA Henry Spring, Avon's Wild & Scenic Study Committee Representative Brandon Robertson, Town Manager Steven Kushner, Director of Planning and Community Development John E. McCahill, Planning & Community Development Specialist Inland Wetlands Commission

N:\Planning\Judy IWC NRC\IWC\Letters\Wild&Scenic_Zacchio_030310.doc



TOWN OF AVON

60 West Main St. Avon, CT 06001-3743
www.town.avon.ct.us

May 19, 2010

Mr. Mark Zacchio, Chairman
Avon Town Council
60 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001

Dear Mr. Zacchio:

At the Natural Resources Commission's meetings held on March 11, 2010 and May 13, 2010, members of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee, presented to the Commission, their findings regarding a study of the Farmington River and the interest in designating the River as a "Wild & Scenic River" under a program administrated by the National Park Service. In attendance at the meetings were Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Study Coordinator, Farmington River Watershed Association and Staff liaison to the National Park Service; Sally Rieger, Wild & Scenic Study Chair; and Harry Spring, Avon's Wild & Scenic Representative.

I am writing to inform you that on March 13, 2010, the Natural Resources Commission, by a formal vote, indicated their support of the Wild & Scenic Designation for the Farmington River, as it passes through the Town of Avon.

If we can provide you with any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Steven Samul, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Copy: Eileen Fielding, FRWA; Joyce Kennedy Raymes, FRWA;
Sally Rieger, FRWA
Henry Spring, Avon's Wild & Scenic Study Committee Representative
Brandon Robertson, Town Manager
Steven Kushner, Director of Planning & Community Development
John E. McCahill, Planning & Community Development Specialist
Natural Resources Commission

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**POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL
EMERGENCY - 911**

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE
Tel. (860) 409-4300
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Tel. (860) 409-4377
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Tel. (860) 409-4359
Fax (860) 677-2847

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Tel. (860) 409-4355
Fax (860) 409-4366

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Tel. (860) 409-4316
Fax (860) 409-4321

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE
Tel. (860) 409-4305
Fax (860) 677-8428

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Fax (860) 409-4364

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FIRE MARSHAL
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Fax (860) 409-4321

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Tel. (860) 409-4303
Fax (860) 409-4366

LANDFILL
281 Huckleberry Hill Rd.
Tel. (860) 673-3677

PLANNING & ZONING
Tel. (860) 409-4328
Fax (860) 409-4375

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4200
Fax (860) 409-4206

PROBATE
Tel. (860) 409-4348
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PUBLIC LIBRARY
281 Country Club Road
Tel. (860) 673-9712
Fax (860) 673-6364

PUBLIC WORKS
11 Arch Road
Tel. (860) 673-6151
Fax (860) 673-0338



TOWN OF AVON

60 West Main St. Avon, CT 06001-3743
www.town.avon.ct.us

February 25, 2010

Mr. Mark Zacchio, Chairman
Avon Town Council
60 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001

Dear Mr. Zacchio:

At the Commission's meetings held on January 12 and January 26, 2010, members of the Farmington River Watershed Association presented to the Commission their findings regarding a study of the Farmington River and their interest in designating the River as a "Wild and Scenic River" under a program administrated by the National Park Service. In attendance at the meetings were Eileen Fielding, Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association; Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Study Coordinator, Farmington River Watershed Association, and Staff liaison to the National Park Service; and Henry Spring, Avon's Wild & Scenic Study Committee Representative. Also in attendance at the Commission's January 26 meeting was Jamie Fosburgh, Rivers Program Manager for the Wild and Scenic Program for the New England Region of the National Park Service.

The Commission initially expressed concern regarding the Town's interest in replacing the bridge over the Farmington River located on Old Farms Road, and whether the designation of the River as Wild and Scenic could present any impediments to the implementation of this project. Mr. Fosburgh, of the National Park Service, suggested that the Town submit to him a copy of the proposed bridge plans. He agreed to review these and provide a report. Once the Town is ready to proceed with the project and submit applications to various federal regulatory agencies, this report would then serve as his official report. On February 9, 2010, Mr. Fosburgh provided written comments which were reviewed by Tom Daukas, Avon Special Projects Engineer, as well as the Commission. The report provided by the National Park Service would not appear to interfere with the Town's needs in this instance. On February 9, 2010, the Planning and Zoning Commission, by a vote of 5 to 2, indicated their support of the Wild and Scenic designation for the Farmington River, as it passes through the Town of Avon.

If we can provide you with any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Duane Starr, Chairman
Planning and Zoning Commission

Copy: Eileen Fielding, FRWA; Joyce Kennedy Raymes, FRWA
Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service
Henry Spring, Avon's Wild & Scenic Study Committee Representative
Steven Kushner, Director of Planning and Community Development
Brandon Robertson, Town Manager
Planning and Zoning Commission

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**POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL
EMERGENCY - 911**

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Tel. (860) 409-4300
Fax (860) 409-4368

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER
Tel. (860) 409-4377
Fax (860) 409-4368

ACCOUNTING
Tel. (860) 409-4359
Fax (860) 677-2847

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Tel. (860) 409-4355
Fax (860) 409-4366

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4316
Fax (860) 409-4321

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE
Tel. (860) 409-4305
Fax (860) 677-8428

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4322
Fax (860) 409-4364

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4346
Fax (860) 409-4366

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Tel. (860) 409-4319
Fax (860) 409-4321

HUMAN RESOURCES
Tel. (860) 409-4303
Fax (860) 409-4366

LANDFILL
281 Huckleberry Hill Rd.
Tel. (860) 673-3677

PLANNING & ZONING
Tel. (860) 409-4328
Fax (860) 409-4375

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4200
Fax (860) 409-4206

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Tel. (860) 409-4348
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Fax (860) 409-4334
Cancellation (860) 409-4365

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TOWN CLERK
Tel. (860) 409-4310
Fax (860) 677-8428

TDD HEARING IMPAIRED
Tel. (860) 409-4361



Office of the Mayor
TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD
800 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT 06002
TEL 860.769.3500
FAX 860.769.3598

August 11, 2010

Ms. Sally Rieger
Ms. Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger and Ms. Raymes:

I am writing on behalf of the Bloomfield Town Council to document our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken initially by unanimous vote of the Town Council at its January 26, 2009 meeting. Subsequently, Bloomfield town staff provided input on the designation and Management Plan, which have been reviewed and endorsed by the appropriate Bloomfield Town Commissions.

Bloomfield looks forward to swift action by Congress to add the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook to the nations system of Wild & Scenic Rivers, and Bloomfield thereby officially becoming a Wild & Scenic River town.

Sincerely,

Sydney T. Schulman
Mayor



Department of
Engineering
TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD
800 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT 06002
TEL 860.769.3524
FAX 860.769.3597

March 17, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/ Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger and Ms. Raymes,

I am writing on behalf of **Town of Bloomfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission** to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River Designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan.

This position was taken by a formal vote of the **Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission** at our meeting on **March 15, 2010**. Enclosed is a copy of the minutes and the motion from that meeting.

Sincerely,

Laurianetta Huguley, Secretary
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

enclosure

January 25, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Bloomfield Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee to indicate our support for Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote at the CEEC meeting on January 14, 2010.

The Bloomfield Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee shares the conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. A portion of the Farmington River forms the northern boundary of Bloomfield and is a valuable natural feature of the town. We understand that Bloomfield could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us maintain and enhance the value of Bloomfield's portion of the Farmington River for the town and its citizens.

As an environmental steward and advocacy group for the town of Bloomfield, we hope that the designation will be achieved for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

Tollie Miller, Chair
Bloomfield Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee



*Department of
Planning & Zoning*
TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD
800 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT 06002
TEL. 860.766.3515
FAX 860.766.3597

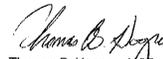
February 9, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger and Raymes:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Bloomfield Town Plan and Zoning Commission to indicate their support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. The Commission took this action by unanimous vote at their regular meeting of January 28, 2010. As part of the motion, the Commission noted that they were supportive of the designation as long as the entire river frontage within the Town of Bloomfield received this designation.

Sincerely,


Thomas B. Hooper, ACP
Director of Planning



Town of Burlington

May 25, 2010

Catherine R. Bergstrom
First Selectman

Kenneth Allen
James A. Chard
Kristen Grindol-Keller
Michael Taricani
Board of Selectmen

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Burlington Board of Selectmen to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. This position was taken by consensus of the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on May 11, 2010. Enclosed is a copy of the minutes from that meeting.

The Town of Burlington values the natural resources of the Farmington River and uses its land use regulations to protect those resources for the benefit of its citizens. In this we are in agreement with the purposes and the goals of the advisory Management Plan for the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study area. We commit to being a partner in the implementation of the Management Plan by appointing a representative and an alternative representative from our citizens to participate in the plan's implementation and to represent our needs and concerns. The Board of Selectmen recognizes that the town does not need to make any financial commitment to implementing the Management Plan. The Board also understands that the designation leaves management of lands along the river in the hands of local government control and that no regulatory changes are needed.

Best,

Catherine R. Bergstrom
First Selectman

Enclosure

cc BOS
Charles Bauer, Town Attorney

200 Spielman Highway
Burlington, Connecticut
06013-1735
tel 860.673.6789 ext 1
fax 860.673.8607

February **, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of Bloomfield Leisure Services to indicate our support for Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Bloomfield Leisure Services shares the conservation and land use goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the natural and recreational resources of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. A portion of the Farmington River forms the northern boundary of Bloomfield's Farmington River Park. It is also in close proximity to Wilcox Park. We understand that Bloomfield could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us further develop and enhance these valuable outdoor recreational resources for the town and region's citizens.

We hope that the designation will be achieved to promote Bloomfield Leisure Service's goals of providing quality recreational opportunities, preserving our natural resources, and managing our system of parks and facilities so as to enrich our community.

Sincerely,

David Melesko, Director
Bloomfield Leisure Services Department



Town of Burlington

The Lower Farmington
Wild & Scenic Study Committee

November 4, 2010

The Burlington Conservation Commission fully supports a Wild & Scenic designation for the lower Farmington River. As one of the ten towns through which the lower Farmington runs her course, Burlington and its citizenry enjoy the scenic beauty and recreational opportunity the river provides. It is a resource worth protecting.

The Burlington Conservation Commission is committed to preserving the character of our rural community understanding full well that we must develop and grow economically as a town. The Farmington River, with the rails-to-trails path that runs alongside her southwestern bank, is an important part of Burlington's character and an economic recourse. We would welcome the scientific information and technical support that could help local land use boards to make wise, defensible land use decisions concerning the river and her watershed while maintaining local control in planning and regulation.

The Burlington Conservation Commission

Carl Salsedo
Diane Holhubner
John Hebert
Linda Graham
Paul Rochford

200 Sp



TOWN OF CANTON

FOUR MARKET STREET
P.O. BOX 168
COLLINSVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06022-0168
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

September 2, 2010

Sally Rieger
Lower Farmington River / Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger,

The Town of Canton Board of Selectmen on January 6, 2010 voted to endorse the designation of that portion of the Farmington River located in the Town of Canton from the Town of New Hartford line to the confluence of the Nepaug River for inclusion in the Federal Wild and Scenic River program. That portion of the River from the confluence of the Nepaug River to the Town of Burlington line was excluded because of the Town's desire that the hydroelectric generating facility at the Upper and Lower Collinsville dams be re-established.

The Canton Board of Selectmen supports the designation for the area specified because it would preserve, protect and enhance the environmental and recreational value of the Farmington River. While the designation is for inclusion in the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook study area the reach in Canton is contiguous with the existing Upper Farmington River designated wild and scenic. For that reason it would be better suited for inclusion in the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic designation area.

Sincerely yours,

Richard J. Barlow
First Selectman

Phone 860-693-7837 Fax: 860-693-7884
rskinner@townofcantonct.org
www.townofcantonct.org



PLANNING COMMISSION
Canton, Connecticut Inc. 1806
4 Market Street, Collinsville, Connecticut 06022

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency
Date: February 16, 2010
Re: Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook designation as a Wild and Scenic Area and inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System

Please be advised that at a regular meeting on February 11, 2010, the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency moved to make a positive endorsement to the Board of Selectman for the following item:

1. Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook designated as a Wild and Scenic Area and inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System

MOTION: Chairman Shepard moved to endorse the resolution passed by the BOS regarding the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook designation as a Wild and Scenic Area and inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.
Mr. Mischak seconded the motion.

VOTE: Evonsion-Yes; Mischak-Yes; Shepard-Yes
The motion carried 3-0-0.



PLANNING COMMISSION
Canton, Connecticut Inc. 1806
4 Market Street, Collinsville, Connecticut 06022

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Planning Commission
Date: February 16, 2010
Re: Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook designation as a Wild and Scenic Area and inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System

Please be advised that at a special February 8, 2010 meeting, the Planning Commission moved to make a positive endorsement to the Board of Selectman for the following item:

- MOTION:** Mr. Thiesse moved that the commission mirror the Board of Selectman and Planning Commissions endorsements number one and two as follows:
- a) The Town of Canton Planning Committee endorsed the designation of the Lower Farmington River from the New Hartford town line to the confluence of the Nepaug River as components of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. The area of the Farmington River from the confluence of the Nepaug River downstream to the Avon/Burlington town line is specifically being excluded from recommendation because of the important historical and cultural character and unique developmental opportunities which exist in the excluded areas.
 - b) The Town of Canton Planning Committee endorses the purposes and goals of the management plan.

Mr. Mortimer seconded the motion.

VOTE: Dickstein-Yes; Mortimer-Yes; Thiesse-Yes; Aldridge-Yes.

**Endorsement of the Designation of the
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook as a Wild & Scenic River
and of the Management Plan for the Study Area**

At the meeting of the Board of Selectmen on January 13, 2010, a motion was made by Selectman Short and seconded by First Selectman Hayden to endorse the designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild & Scenic River and to endorse the advisory Management Plan as presented.

WHEREAS, the Town of East Granby Board of Selectmen recognizes that the lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Area provides outstanding resources values in terms of its geology, water quality, biodiversity, cultural landscape and recreation opportunities, values that support the well-being and quality of life for its citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Town of East Granby Board of Selectmen recognizes that the advisory Management Plan for the lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Area, which was developed in partnership with local communities and will be implemented in partnership with local communities, is an important tool to protect and enhance the outstanding resource values of the Study Area, and

WHEREAS, the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee recognizes that the full implementation of the Management Plan will require human and financial resources that may be beyond the capacity of the Town of East Granby provide and that full implementation an of the plan will require funding and technical support that may become available as a result of Wild & Scenic designation, and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service was authorized, at the request of the local communities to determine if the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Area is eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, and

WHEREAS, that neither National Park Service nor any other agency of the federal government will own or manage any lands, will not create any new regulatory powers and will not have any control over local municipal boards and commission actions associated with a Wild & Scenic designation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Town of East Granby Board of Selectmen endorses the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as components of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.
2. The Town of East Granby Board of Selectmen endorses the purposes and goals of the Management Plan.

3. The Town of East Granby Board of Selectmen commits to being a partner and participant in the implementation of the Management Plan, including appointing a representative and an alternate to the Farmington River/Salmon Brook Stewardship Council, maintaining open communication with the Council on matters relevant to the watercourses, and working toward utilizing best management practices for protecting the outstanding resource values.
4. The Town of East Granby Board of Selectmen will work on implementing the Management Plan to the best of its abilities regardless of a Wild & Scenic Designation being achieved, recognizing that the implementation of tools that require funding beyond the normal expenditures of the town may not be pursued until or unless outside funding is secured.



TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

INCORPORATED 1858

PLANNING and ENGINEERING
PO BOX 1858 9 CENTER ST
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06026
PHONE 1-860-653-3444 FAX 1-860-653-4017

January 22, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Re: Wild & Scenic River Endorsement Letter

Dear Sally & Joyce:

I am writing on the behalf of the Inland Wetland Commission to indicate their support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the associated Management Plan. This position was taken by a formal vote of the Inland Wetland Commission at their January 20, 2010 meeting, in which the Commission unanimously voted to support your efforts in applying for the Wild & Scenic River designation. For copies of the minutes for the January 20, 2010 Inland Wetland meeting please visit our website www.eastgranby.net.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Haynes
Director of Community Development

Cc: IWC



TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

INCORPORATED 1858

PLANNING and ENGINEERING
PO BOX 1858 9 CENTER ST
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06026
PHONE 1-860-653-3444 FAX 1-860-653-4017

December 29, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Re: Wild & Scenic River Endorsement Letter

Dear Sally & Joyce:

I am writing on the behalf of the Economic Development Commission to indicate their support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the associated Management Plan. This position was taken by a formal vote of the Economic Development Commission at their December 28, 2009 meeting, in which the Commission unanimously voted to support your efforts in applying for the Wild & Scenic River designation. For copies of the minutes for the December 28, 2009 Economic Development meeting please visit our website www.eastgranby.net.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Haynes
Director of Community Development

Cc: EDC



TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

INCORPORATED 1858

PLANNING and ENGINEERING
PO BOX 1858 9 CENTER ST
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06026
PHONE 1-860-653-3444 FAX 1-860-653-4017

December 8, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Re: Wild & Scenic River Endorsement Letter

Dear Sally & Joyce:

I am writing on the behalf of the Planning & Zoning Commission to indicate their support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the associated Management Plan. This position was taken by a formal vote of the Planning & Zoning Commission at their December 8, 2009 meeting, in which the Commission unanimously voted to support your efforts in applying for the Wild & Scenic River designation. For copies of the minutes for the December 8, 2009 Planning & Zoning meeting please visit our website www.eastgranby.net.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Haynes
Director of Community Development

Cc: PZC



Town of Farmington
Incorporated 1645
One Monteith Drive
Farmington, Connecticut 06032-1035

PAULA B. RAY, TOWN CLERK
Tel: 860-675-2380
Fax: 860-675-2389
Email: RayP@Farmington-ct.org

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

I, Paula B. Ray, Town Clerk of the Town of Farmington, CT, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of Farmington, duly held and convened on February 2, 2010, at which meeting a duly constituted quorum of the Town Council was present and acting throughout, and that such resolution has not been modified, rescinded or revoked, and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED: To approve the attached endorsement of the designation of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook as a Wild & Scenic River and the management plan for the study area recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item N-1.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed her signature and the Town Seal this 18th day of February, 2010.



Paula B. Ray, Town Clerk

MOTION: Agenda Item N-1

To Approve the Attached Endorsement of the Designation of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Book as a Wild & Scenic River and the Management Plan for the Study Area.

NOTE:

- October 2003, the Farmington Town Council was the first Town to authorize a letter of support to Congress encouraging the study of the lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook for National Wild & Scenic designation.
- November 2006, "The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Act" was signed into law.
- April 2007, the Farmington Town Council appointed two residents (Walter Sargent and Larry Schlegel) to the Wild and Scenic River Study Committee. One of the charges of the Study Committee is to "develop a river Management Plan with local support that details the strategy for future protection of the area's outstanding values."
- December 2009, the Wild and Scenic Study Committee published a Draft Management Plan for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Excerpts from this Plan are included with this agenda as "Draft Management Goals and Priorities for the Outstanding Resource Values." The complete study is available at www.LowerFarmingtonRiver.org under Documents & Maps.
- January 2010, both the Farmington Conservation Commission and Town Plan and Zoning Commission unanimously voted to endorse and support the Wild and Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan.

For additional information see "Partnership Wild & Scenic: A Brief Description", which is also included with this agenda.

Attachments

S:\Council Agenda\2010\020210.doc

10. Wild and Scenic River Study Committee

Motion was made and seconded (Demico/Vibert) that Larry Schlegel be appointed to the Wild and Scenic River Study Committee for an indefinite term beginning immediately.

Adopted unanimously.

11. Green Efforts "Large" Committee

Motion was made and seconded (Wadsworth/Keniston) that Mike Clark be appointed Chair of the Green Efforts "Large" Committee.

Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Clark abstained.

M. Old Business

There was no old business conducted.

N. New Business.

1. To Approve the Endorsement of the Designation of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Book as a Wild & Scenic River and the Management Plan for the Study Area.

Motion was made and seconded (Wadsworth/Nickerson) to approve the attached endorsement of the designation of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook as a Wild & Scenic River and the management plan for the study area recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item N- 1.

Adopted unanimously.

2. To Approve the Town of Farmington's Strategic Plan.

Motion was made and seconded (Wadsworth/Keniston) to approve the attached Town of Farmington's Strategic Plan recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item N- 2.

Mr. Keniston made the following typographical corrections:

- ❖ Goal 2, 2.2, number 2 change bi-annually to semi-annually
- ❖ Goal 3, 3.4, remove references to any certain groups
- ❖ Goal 3, 3.5, number 14 add a "/" between the words "and" and "or".

Motion was made and seconded (Demico/Vibert) to amend the motion by removing from Goal 3, 3.5, number 14 from the Strategic Plan .

Failed

Mr. Demico yes.

Voting no were Clark, Keniston, Nickerson, Stoddard, Vibert and Wadsworth.

INCORPORATED 1645

THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON



TOWN HALL
1 MONTEITH DRIVE
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032-1053
INFORMATION (860) 675-2300
FAX (860) 675-7140
'BULLETIN BOARD' (860) 675-2301

January 21, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger and Ms. Kennedy Raymers,

I am writing on behalf of the Farmington Conservation Commission to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. This position was taken by formal vote of the Farmington Conservation Commission at their meeting on January 4, 2010. (Enclosed is a copy of the motion from that meeting.)

Sincerely,

Robert Hannon
Robert Hannon, Chair
Farmington Conservation Commission

cc: Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager
Elizabeth S. Dolphin, Assistant Town Planner

INCORPORATED 1645

THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON



TOWN HALL
1 MONTEITH DRIVE
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032-1053
INFORMATION (860) 675-2300
FAX (860) 675-7140
'BULLETIN BOARD' (860) 675-2301

January 21, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

CERTIFIED MAIL

Re: Farmington River Wild and Scenic River Designation

Dear Ms. Rieger and Ms. Raymes,

At a meeting of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission held on January 19, 2010, it was unanimously voted to endorse and support the Wild and Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan.

Please contact the Planning Department at (860) 675-2325 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Philip R. Dunn, Jr.
Philip R. Dunn, Jr., Secretary
Town Plan and Zoning Commission

PRD/sjm

cc: Kathy Eagen
Liz Dolphin

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Internet Address www.farmington-ct.org

**Endorsement of the Designation of the
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook as a Wild & Scenic River
and of the Management Plan for the Study Area**

At the meeting of the Town Council on February 2, 2010, a motion was made by Council Member William Wadsworth and seconded by Council Member Nancy Nickerson to endorse the designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild & Scenic River and to endorse the advisory Management Plan as presented.

WHEREAS, the Town of Farmington Town Council recognizes that the lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Area provides outstanding resources values in terms of its geology, water quality, biodiversity, cultural landscape and recreation opportunities, values that support the well-being and quality of life for its citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Farmington Town Council recognizes that the advisory Management Plan for the lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Area, which was developed in partnership with local communities and will be implemented in partnership with local communities, is an important tool to protect and enhance the outstanding resource values of the Study Area, and

WHEREAS, the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee recognizes that the full implementation of the Management Plan will require human and financial resources that may be beyond the capacity of the Town of Farmington to provide and that full implementation of the plan will require funding and technical support that may become available as a result of Wild & Scenic designation, and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service was authorized, at the request of the local communities to determine if the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Area is eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, and

WHEREAS, that neither National Park Service nor any other agency of the federal government will own or manage any lands, will not create any new regulatory powers and will not have any control over local municipal boards and commission actions associated with a Wild & Scenic designation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Town of Farmington Town Council endorses the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as components of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.
2. The Town of Farmington Town Council endorses the purposes and goals of the Management Plan.

3. The Town of Farmington Town Council commits to being a partner and participant in the implementation of the Management Plan, including appointing a representative and an alternate to the Farmington River/Salmon Brook Stewardship Council, maintaining open communication with the Council on matters relevant to the watercourses, and working toward utilizing best management practices for protecting the outstanding resource values.
4. The Town of Farmington Town Council will work on implementing the Management Plan to the best of its abilities regardless of a Wild & Scenic Designation being achieved, recognizing that the implementation of tools that require funding beyond the normal expenditures of the town may not be pursued until or unless outside funding is secured.



TOWN OF GRANBY
Incorporated 1786

15 NORTH GRANBY ROAD
GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06035-2125
(860) 844-5300

WILLIAM F. SMITH, JR.
TOWN MANAGER

February 17, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger and Ms. Raymes:

I am writing on behalf of the Granby Board of Selectmen to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board at their meeting on February 16, 2010. Enclosed is a true copy of the Endorsement of the Designation of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook as a Wild and Scenic River and of the Management Plan for the Study Area from that meeting.

Very truly yours,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager

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*Granby Inland Wetlands
And Watercourses Commission
Wild and Scenic Endorsement*

January 14, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Granby IWWC to indicate our support of the National Park Service (NPS) Wild & Scenic (W&S) River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. An NPS W&S designation would be an affirmation that our IWWC regulations provide resource protection in keeping with the intent of the national Wild & Scenic Rivers act. This position was taken by formal vote of the IWWC at their meeting on January 13, 2010. (Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of that meeting with the motion.)

Sincerely,

David W. Tolli, Chairman
Granby Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

I CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE COPY.
ATTEST: *[Signature]* Town Clerk
Dated at Granby, CT 2-17-10
2 pages

TOWN OF GRANBY

**Endorsement of the Designation of the
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook as a
Wild and Scenic River and of the
Management Plan for the Study Area**

At the meeting of the Board of Selectmen on February 16, 2010 a motion was made by Board member B. Scott Kuhnly and seconded by Board member Mark Neumann to endorse the designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic River and to endorse the advisory Management Plan as presented.

WHEREAS, the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen recognizes that the lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Area provides outstanding resources values in terms of its geology, water quality, biodiversity, cultural landscape and recreation opportunities, values that support the well-being and quality of life for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen recognizes that the advisory Management Plan for the lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Area, which was developed in partnership with local communities and will be implemented in partnership with local communities, is an important tool to protect and enhance the outstanding resource values of the Study Area; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee recognizes that the full implementation of the Management Plan will require human and financial resources that may be beyond the capacity of the Town of Granby to provide and that full implementation of the plan will require funding and technical support that may become available as a result of the wild and scenic designation; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service was authorized, at the request of the local communities to determine if the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Area is eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and

WHEREAS, that neither National Park Service nor any other agency of the federal government will own or manage any lands, will not create any new regulatory powers and will not have any control over local municipal boards and commission actions associated with a wild and scenic designation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Town of Granby Board of Selectmen endorses the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
2. The Town of Granby Board of Selectmen endorses the purposes and goals of the Management Plan.

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3. The Town of Granby Board of Selectmen commits to being a partner and participant in the implementation of the Management Plan, including appointing a representative and an alternate to the Farmington River/Salmon Brook Stewardship Council, maintaining open communication with the Council on matters relevant to the watercourses, and working toward utilizing best management practices for protecting the outstanding resource values.
4. The Town of Granby Board of Selectmen will work on implementing the Management Plan to the best of its abilities regardless of a wild and scenic designation being achieved, recognizing that the implementation of tools that require funding beyond the normal expenditures of the town may not be pursued until or unless outside funding is secured.

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Town of Granby
Granby Planning and Zoning Commission

January 12, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes,

I am writing on behalf of the Granby Planning and Zoning Commission to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. This position was taken by formal vote of the Commission at their meeting on 1-12-10. Enclosed is a copy or the minutes from that meeting.

Sincerely,



Paula Johnson, Chairman
Planning and Zoning Commission



Town of Hartland
22 South Road
EAST HARTLAND, CT 06027
860-653-0800
www.munic.state.ct.us/hartland/hartland.htm

March 9, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

I am writing on behalf of the Hartland Selectmen to indicate our support of the Wild and Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Selectmen at our Regular Monthly meeting, held on Monday, March 8, 2010. The motion was carried unanimously.

Sincerely,



Wade E. Cole
First Selectman

cc: Susan Murray

mw

Commission/Board Endorsement

March 3
Month, day, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally & Joyce,

HARTLAND WETLANDS

I am writing on behalf of the (name of board or commission) to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. This position was taken by formal vote of the (board or commission) at their meeting on (date). (~~Enclosed is a copy of~~ the motion from that meeting.) was unanimous 3-4-10

Sincerely,
(name), (position)
(Name of organization)

William R. Lewis Jr. Chairman HIWC
Hartland Inlands Wetlands Commission

Commission/Board Endorsement

February 22,
Month, day, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally Rieger & Joyce Kennedy Raymes

HARTLAND P&Z

I am writing on behalf of the (name of board or commission) to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook and the Management Plan. This position was taken by formal vote of the (board or commission) at their meeting on (date). (~~Enclosed is a copy of~~ the motion from that meeting.) was unanimous 2-22-10

Sincerely,
Wann Haag Chairman P&Z
(name), (position)
(Name of organization) 2-22-10

Hartland Planning & Zoning



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET P.O. BOX 495 SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Mary A. Glassman - First Selectman

May 10, 2010

Sally Rieger
Joyce Kennedy Raymes
c/o Farmington River Watershed Association
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

Congratulations. The Simsbury Board of Selectmen voted to endorse the wild and scenic designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook at its February 8, 2010 meeting.

The Lower Farmington River is a unique recreational and natural resource and we applaud your work in safeguarding its quality and well-being. We hope that our endorsement will enhance your efforts to support native brook trout populations and wide-ranging public recreation opportunities.

We look forward to reaping the many benefits of designation, which will include the availability of federal technical and financial resources to help protect the river.

Please be assured of our gratitude and best wishes as you continue your pursuit of this valuable endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Glassman

/sbm
cc: Board of Selectmen

Telephone (860) 658-3230
Facsimile (860) 658-9467



Town of Simsbury Conservation Commission

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

February 2, 2010

The Board of Selectmen
Town of Simsbury
933 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Conservation Commission has had two informative presentations from leaders of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee. These presentations have summarized the goals and priorities of the study and the relevant provisions of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. This evening's discussion also dealt with the content of the committee's Management Plan, which is to be submitted to Congress this summer. We understand that this plan does not require changes in local land use regulations and does not affect private property rights. Rather, it recommends, in a wholly advisory manner, general measures to protect and enhance the outstanding resource values of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Additionally, we understand that, if the watercourses are designated *wild and scenic*, National Park Service annual funding can be expected for river related conservation projects.

The Conservation Commission enthusiastically endorses the wild and scenic designation of the watercourses and urges the Board of Selectmen to give favorable consideration to doing so as well.

Respectfully,

The Conservation Commission

By Richard A. Miller, Jr.
Chairman



November 3, 2010

Ms. Joyce Kennedy-Raymes
Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator
c/o FRWA
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Re: Farmington River Wild & Scenic Designation

Dear Joyce:

Please accept my apologies for the delay in sending you this letter. As confirmation, the Town Council endorsed the proposed wild and scenic designation for the Farmington River during its August 2, 2010 meeting with the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Town Council endorse the Farmington River Wild & Scenic River designation as presented by the study committee, which excludes the Rainbow Reservoir, from the western end of the impoundment area to 0.485 miles below the tailrace of the Rainbow Dam.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this motion or the project at 860-285-1981.

Sincerely,

Eric Barz
Town Planner

275 Broad Street • Windsor, Connecticut 06095 • www.townofwindsorct.com



March 17, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy-Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Subject: Designation Endorsement

Dear Joyce:

Thank you for updating the Windsor Inland Wetlands Commission on the progress of the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic River designation at the meeting on March 2, 2010. At the meeting the Commission voted to endorse and support the Wild & Scenic designation and the Management Plan. Enclosed is a copy of the draft minutes that include the motion of endorsement from March 2, 2010.

Sincerely,

Cyd R. Groff
Environmental Planner & Inland Wetlands Agent
Town of Windsor, CT

275 Broad Street • Windsor, Connecticut 06095 • www.townofwindsorct.com



October 20, 2010

Joyce Kennedy-Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Subject: Designation Endorsement

Dear Joyce:

Thank you for updating the Windsor Town Planning and Zoning Commission on the progress of the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic River designation at the meeting on March 9, 2010. At the meeting the Commission voted to endorse and support the Wild & Scenic designation and the Management Plan. Enclosed is a copy of the minutes that include the motion of endorsement from March 9, 2010.

Sincerely,

Eric Barz, AICP
Town Planner
Town of Windsor, CT

275 Broad St

May 21, 2009

Ms. Sally Rieger, Chairlady,
Ms. Joyce Kennedy Rames, Community Planner
Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow St.
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms Rieger and Ms Kennedy Rames:

The Board of Directors of the Avon Land Trust, at its meeting on May 21, 2009, voted to offer its strongest endorsement of the efforts and accomplishments of The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee.

As the committee enters its third year of gathering information and scientific data substantiating the validity of the river and brook's suitability for designation as one of the nation's finest stream systems we applaud the committee's diligence and success. We wish it continued success as it enters the phase of preparing the necessary documentation for Congressional approval. The ten towns of the study area will be the beneficiaries of Congressional approval and the efforts of the Study Committee.

We are pleased to note that the Avon Land Trust was the first organization to offer endorsement when Representative Nancy Johnson (R CT) and Representative John Larsen (D CT) first raised the bill establishing the Study Committee.

Sincerely,

Robert Breckinridge, President
Avon Land Trust



THE BURLINGTON LAND TRUST
www.burlingtonlandtrust.org

The Lower Farmington
Wild & Scenic Study Committee

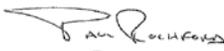
November 11, 2009

The Burlington Land Trust fully supports a Wild & Scenic designation for the lower Farmington River. As one of the ten towns through which the lower Farmington runs her course, Burlington and its citizenry enjoy the scenic beauty and recreational opportunity the river provides. It is a resource worth protecting.

A land trust is a resource to preserve and protect open space and natural resources. The Farmington River, with the rails-to-trails path that runs alongside, are important parts of Burlington's character as a rural community. We would welcome the scientific information and technical support that could help local land use boards to make wise, defensible land use decisions concerning the river and her watershed while maintaining local control in planning and regulation.

The Burlington Land Trust Board of Directors

The Burlington Land Trust
PO Box 1153
Burlington, CT 06013


RESIDENT

P.O. Box 41
Canton Center, CT 06020

October 28, 2009

To: Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee

The Canton Land Conservation Trust supports very enthusiastically the designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic. The Farmington River is an important resource for Canton and particularly the Collinsville area. It is also an important shared resource with our neighbor towns. Canton also contains Cherry Brook, an important tributary of the Farmington. The Land Trust owns several parcels that contain portions of Cherry Brook or smaller streams that feed Cherry Brook, and the water quality of these streams and Cherry Brook itself are very important to us.

Sincerely,

Charles DeWeese,
President, Canton Land Conservation Trust



December 3, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the East Granby Land Trust to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at our meeting on December 3, 2009.

The East Granby Land Trust endorses the resource conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We support the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the outstanding natural and cultural resources of Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River. The main stem of Salmon Brook is in East Granby and flows into the Farmington River. Forming the southern boundary of our town, the Farmington River plunges through the Tariffville Gorge, then slows and meanders into Windsor. The water quality and varied habitat of these streams and their riparian zones harbor diverse biological communities and provide recreational resources that are very important to us. We believe Wild & Scenic designation and resulting technical support and funding will help our town protect the river and brook so they can continue to host thriving natural communities and be enjoyed by future generations.

As a non-profit conservation organization and landowner in East Granby, we think Wild & Scenic designation will benefit our organization and our community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer G. Frank, P.E.

President - East Granby Land Trust

GRANBY Land Trust

Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage



January 26, 2010

Ms. Sally Rieger and Ms. Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Granby Land Trust to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Granby Land Trust's board of directors at their meeting on January 25, 2010.

The Granby Land Trust shares the resource conservation goals supported by a Wild & Scenic designation. As a property owner of land on the Salmon Brook's West Branch, the Land Trust would very much like to have this special resource benefit from the extra protection that a Wild & Scenic designation would bring to the brook. We also could potentially benefit from the National Park Service funding available through the Wild & Scenic Rivers program for a project that would benefit the stream segment that runs through Land Trust property.

Salmon Brook is a wonderful asset for our town. We believe that Granby and the other towns along Salmon Brook and the Lower Farmington River would benefit from a Wild & Scenic designation and we are happy to take this opportunity to offer our enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,

Rick Oriskany, President
Granby Land Trust



11/24/09

Sally Rieger
Chair of the Lower Farmington River
/ Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study

Dear Sally,

The Hartland Land Trust, Inc. is pleased to write in support of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook study committee's effort to protect this watercourse through a National Wild and Scenic designation. The Hartland Land Trust is committed to building conservation efforts both locally and regionally throughout the Farmington River Watershed.

At our November 23rd meeting, a vote was taken concerning the Hartland Land Trust's endorsement of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook study. The result was 100% in favor of supporting your efforts toward designation.

Respectfully,

Fred W. Jones

Fred W. Jones

President Hartland Land Trust



SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 634 | Simsbury, CT 06070 | tel 860.651.8773 | fax 860.651.8773 | www.simsburylandtrust.org

Board of Trustees

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*Preserving Simsbury
Open Space Since 1976*

November 23, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

I am writing on behalf of the Simsbury Land Trust to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting on November 10, 2009.

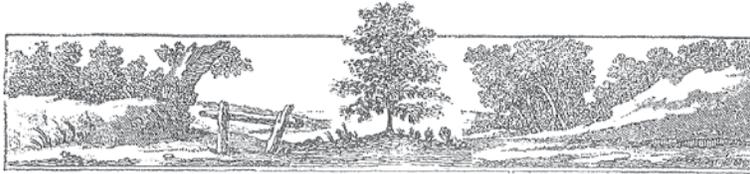
Simsbury Land Trust shares the resource conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural resources of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook. As riparian landowners on the lower Farmington, we hope that the funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation will support our organization's efforts to make our river front property accessible to the public for recreational and educational purposes in a way compatible with river protection.

The Farmington River is a wonderful asset for our town and the other towns through which it flows. A Wild & Scenic River designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook would greatly benefit our community. If there is anything further that we can do to be of assistance in this regard, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Chuck Howard,
President
Simsbury Land Trust

1336746v1



Wintonbury Land Trust

December 31, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

The Wintonbury Land Trust Board of Directors voted in the December 30th meeting to support the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

The Wintonbury Land Trust shares the conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. A portion of the Farmington River forms the northern boundary of Bloomfield and is a valuable natural feature of the town. We understand that Bloomfield could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us maintain and enhance the value of Bloomfield's portion of the Farmington River for the town and its citizens.

As an environmental steward and advocacy group owning land in the Town of Bloomfield, Windsor and Simsbury, we think the designation will be beneficial to our larger regional environmental community.

Sincerely,

Dale Bertoldi, President
Wintonbury Land Trust



CHAMBER

April 22, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce to indicate our support for Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the Lower Farmington River is important to the economic vitality and cultural health of Bloomfield and the Lower Farmington Valley. The Chamber voted overwhelmingly at its March 10 meeting to endorse the Wild & Scenic Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the natural and recreational resources of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. We believe Bloomfield could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, helping the Town to further develop and enhance valuable natural resources which, in turn, could generate future business opportunities for the town and region's citizens.

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce actively supports business and community efforts so that Bloomfield continues to be an economically vibrant, attractive place in which to live and do business. We hope that the designation will be achieved for the benefit of our community and the region.

Sincerely,

Verla Smith-Winfrey, M.Ed.
Executive Director, Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce

The Simsbury Garden Club
P.O. Box 123, Simsbury, CT 06070

February 10, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger and Ms. Raymes:

I am writing on behalf of the Simsbury Garden Club to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Club's general membership at their meeting on January 25, 2010.

The stated mission of the Simsbury Garden Club is, in part, to promote conservation and protection of natural resources. The Club recognizes that the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as a Wild and Scenic River would benefit these waterways by providing funding, research and support that help protect the Farmington River.

The Simsbury Garden Club hopes that the designation of these treasured natural resources will be achieved for the benefit of our community and our wild areas.

Sincerely,



Susan Duncan, President
The Simsbury Garden Club

February 7, 2010

Susan Murray
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sue,

I am writing on behalf of the Hartland Lions Club to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural resources of Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River. The headwaters of the West Branch of Salmon Brook runs through Hartland and we understand the community could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us maintain and enhance the stream's water quality so it can continue to be an outstanding resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Rob Davis, Hartland Lions Club

John W. Owens
21 Kenmore Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Tel: 860.713.1688 JohnWOwens@comcast.net

February 12, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Bloomfield Greenway Study Committee to indicate our support for Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by the a vote of the Bloomfield Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee, a town committee and parent committee of the Greenway Sub-Committee in its regular meeting on February 11, 2010.

The Bloomfield Greenway Study Committee shares the conservation and land use goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the natural and recreational resources of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. A portion of the Farmington River forms the northern boundary of Bloomfield and is in close proximity to the first section development envisioned for the Bloomfield Greenway. We understand that Bloomfield could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us develop this valuable outdoor recreational resource for the town and region's citizens.

As a recreational and outdoor advocacy group for the town of Bloomfield, we hope that the designation will be achieved for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,



John Owens, Chair
Bloomfield Greenway Study Committee

Simsbury
Historical
Society



PHCLPS
TAVERN
MUSEUM

*exploring
new directions
in history
since 1911*

11 March 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River - Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing on behalf of the Simsbury Historical Society to indicate our unanimous board and staff support of a Wild & Scenic River Partnership designation of Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The preservation of lands, waterways and historic sites crosses political boundaries while promoting public recognition, regional tourism and the healthy use of the natural and built environment. By joining forces with the National Park Service, additional avenues of support and education become available; we ask that a national Wild & Scenic designation be made for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Sincerely,



Suzan D. Friedlander
Director



February 11, 2010
PO Box 7454
Bloomfield, Ct 06002

To the Lower Farmington River/
Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
The Wintonbury Historical Society wishes
to add support to the Committee - and
its dedication to preservation of the River.
Earlier the Society had been the benefit of
a very professional presentation by Ken
and Paula.

Also the Society has been well aware
of the historical ramifications of the
Farmington River - as noted through
two previous programs on the river.

We wish you success -

Jennie R. Gabriel
President

Wintonbury Historical Society • P.O. Box 7454, Bloomfield, Co

The Canton Historical Society

December 27, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Study Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Canton Historical Society, Inc. to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

The Canton Historical Society recognizes the important role of the Farmington River in supporting the greater Canton community, including its historical importance as a source of power for the factories such as the Collins Axe Factory that operated along its banks.

Today the river is an important recreational area and serves as the hub of the historic Village of Collinsville. The protection of this waterway is a vital part of retaining the historic context of the area while allowing residents and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy its beauty and the habitats that surround it. The presence of an unspoiled riverfront serves as a draw to those utilizing the walking trails and helps the museum to attract visitors who come to enjoy the river views.

We heartily support the efforts to conserve this important resource.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Therrien, President
Canton Historical Society, Inc.

**TOWN OF CANTON
COLLINSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

February 11, 2010

Sally Rieger
Wild & Scenic Study Chair
c/o FRWA
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Subject: Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study

Ms Rieger:

The members of the Collinsville Historic District Commission unanimously endorse the proposal to designate the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as a Wild and Scenic Area.

We understand that this designation would call for an exemption for the area between with the Nepaug Reservoir outflow and the lower dam in Burlington, in order to facilitate its possible resurrection as a source for hydroelectric power generation. We endorse this exemption as well.

We also understand that, due to the above exemption, a small discontinuous portion of the proposed area would lie between the current downstream end of the existing Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Area near the New Hartford/Canton line, and the Nepaug Reservoir outflow. We endorse the idea of extending the designated Upper Farmington area to include that portion of the proposed study area.

Sincerely,

David Leff
Chairman

Kent McCoy
Vice-Chairman

Kathleen Woolam
Secretary/Commissioner

Eric Jackson
Commissioner

Walter Kendra
Commissioner

Sylvia Cansela
Alternate Commissioner

Mary Ellen Cosker
Alternate Commissioner

Stephen
Alternate



Hartland Historical Society, Inc
PO Box 221
East Hartland, CT 06027
(860)413-9826

July 30, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Hartland Historical Society to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting on July 1, 2009.

The Hartland Historical Society shares the resource conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural resources of Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River. A portion of the West Branch of Salmon Brook runs through the Hartland and is a valuable educational and cultural resource for us. We understand that Hartland could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us maintain and enhance the stream's water quality so it can continue to be an outstanding resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Maureen H. Watson – President
Hartland Historical Society



Salmon Brook Historical Society

1732
Abijah Rowe House

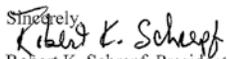
June 6, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow St.
Simsbury, CT 06070

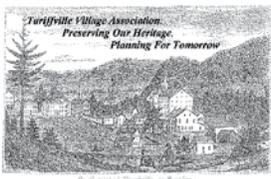
Dear Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Salmon Brook Historical Society in Granby to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Society's board of directors at their meeting on May 24.

We strongly support this designation because of our overall interest in resource protection and a more particular interest in the protection of Salmon Brook, which has been of historical importance to our community.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Schrepf, President
Salmon Brook Historical Society

208 Salmon



TARIFFVILLE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 333
Tariffville, CT 06081-0333
Tel: 860-651-3802
Fax: 860-651-3802
www.tariffville.org

November 13, 2009

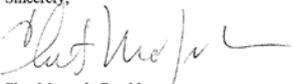
Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

It gives the Board of Directors of the Tariffville Village Association great pleasure to strongly endorse the Wild & Scenic Designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

The Tariffville section of Simsbury is closely bonded with the Farmington River. The well-being of all of the river's outstanding resource values directly affects all of our citizens. Protection and enhancement of these resource values is also a goal of our community. We all benefit from the knowledge and protection of the geology, archeology, cultural landscape, water quality, biodiversity, and recreation value of the river.

This endorsement was agreed upon by a unanimous vote of the Tariffville Village Association Board of Directors on November 12, 2009.

Sincerely,

Chet Matczak, President
Tariffville Village Association

Tariffville Village Association: www.tariffville.org
President: Chet Matczak; Vice Presidents: Bryan West, John Nagy; Secretary: Joan Nagy; Treasurer: Terry Salls
Committee Chairs: Planning and Design: Frank Haviland; Membership: Chet and Laurie Matczak;
Fund Raising: John Nagy; Historic Village District: Jane Fenton; School & Public Safety: Amy Salls;
Recreation: Bryan West; Economic Development: Jennie Winiarski; Web Site: Scott Glazier

Salmon Brook Watershed Association

January 10, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Committee,

On behalf of the *Salmon Brook Watershed Association*, I am writing to indicate our enthusiastic support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. At recent meetings, the board has heard presentations, discussed and endorsed this important designation.

As the principal organization in Granby charged with various roles regarding our forty thousand acre watershed, *Salmon Brook Watershed Association* sees the designation as an extremely important and timely undertaking. The Salmon Brooks which course through the eastern and western portions of Granby are increasingly threatened with the impacts of residential growth. Their current excellent ecological health is in part due to a good public awareness of their vulnerability and the consequent sensible measures in place to protect that health. Designation as Wild & Scenic will significantly increase and enhance the continuation of good ecological practices for decades to come. All of us look forward to the completion of the study and the much deserved designation.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Caley
President, SBWA



December 20, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Farmington Valley Visitors Association (FVVA), to show our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by a vote of the Board of Directors of the Farmington Valley Visitors Association via e-mail on December 16th and 17th.

FVVA's mission is to enhance economic vitality within the Farmington Valley and promote the valley to residents and visitors. Our commitment to recognize, protect, and promote the cultural, historical, and recreational sites in the area meld completely with the goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. The Farmington River is one of the valley's treasures that we encourage residents and visitors to take advantage of. The distinction will help enhance economic vitality and bring more tourists into our region.

We commend your tireless efforts as part of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. The designation will help preserve and maintain the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook and may provide funding to help protect it for years to come.

Sincerely,



Nancy Weiner-Anstey
Executive Director, FVVA

FARMINGTON VALLEY VISITORS ASSOCIATION
33 East Main Street PO Box 1491 Avon, CT 06001
860.676.8878 1-800-4-WELCOME (493-5266)
www.fvva.com fvva@snnet.net

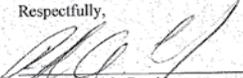
Avon Fish and Game Club
West Street
Hartland, CT 06065

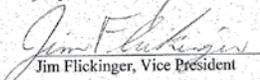
May 21, 2010

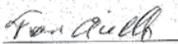
TO: Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Per this letter, we the officers of the Avon Fish and Game Club of Hartland, Connecticut officially express our organization's support for National Park Service designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as "Wild and Scenic."

Respectfully,


Ralph Ehrhardt, President


Jim Flickinger, Vice President


Fran Aiello, Treasurer


Steve Scanlon Secretary



January 14, 2010

Sally Rieger
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger,

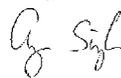
I am writing to express American Rivers' strong support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. The Farmington River is a fantastic example of all that a federal Wild & Scenic River designation seeks to highlight. The increased protection and recognition for the river will help to highlight the great recreational opportunities, biological diversity and cultural resources on this beautiful and scenic river and one of its most important tributaries.

We support the designation, as well as the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee's decision to limit the Rainbow Dam exclusion to a distance shortly below the end of the tailrace. Extending the exclusion farther downstream is unnecessary given the current use of that section of the river and its value as fish habitat: extending the exclusion limits the protection for the river.

American Rivers has been pleased to provide technical assistance to the Spoonville Dam removal project in the Tariffville Gorge on the lower Farmington. Removal of this breached concrete dam will further improve recreational opportunities on this section of the river, extending a whitewater run and removing a significant safety hazard for novice boaters and swimmers. The dam removal is supported by the community and is in keeping with the goals of the Wild & Scenic designation to protect the recreational and scenic values of the river, while making the river more accessible to the public.

American Rivers is the leading national organization standing up for healthy rivers so communities can thrive. American Rivers protects and restores America's rivers for the benefit of people, wildlife and nature. Founded in 1973, American Rivers has more than 65,000 members and supporters nationwide. We are a proud supporter of the national Wild & Scenic Rivers and hope to see the miles of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook added to the system.

Sincerely,



Amy Singler
Associate Director, American Rivers River Restoration Program
American Rivers
413-584-2183



Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

BOARD

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A tax-exempt organization under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
Chairman Sally Rieger &
Study Coordinator Joyce Kennedy Raymes

December 3, 2010

Dear Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

I write to express the enthusiastic support of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut for Wild and Scenic designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Rivers Alliance was founded in Collinsville on the Farmington River, and we know the river and its communities well. In our Watershed Assistance Small Grants Program, funded by the EPA through the CT Department of Environmental Protection, one of our early grants went to assist in the startup of the Salmon Brook Watershed Association.

People in the Farmington River watershed did a great favor to their river and all the rivers in the state when they sought and won Wild and Scenic designation for the Upper River. Obtaining the same status for the Lower River will make the earlier designation even more valuable.

Rivers Alliance regrets any exclusion from the designated segment but respects the decision of the Committee to accommodate potential future needs of Stanley Black & Decker with respect to acquiring a FERC license for their hydropower facility. But we strongly recommend ending the exclusion shortly below the tailrace at the Rainbow Dam. A lengthier exclusion would undermine the integrity of the program.

Our general position on hydropower projects is that maximum benefits come from combining gains via improved efficiency at existing sites with provisions to enhance the health of affected rivers. We follow the standards of the Low-Impact Hydropower Institute. With respect to the Collinsville dams, we have, since the 1990s, advocated for removal or breaching of the small, lower dam in exchange for high-quality, low-impact hydropower generation at the large, upper dam.

7 West St., Suite 33, P.O. Box 1797, Litchfield, CT 06759 860-361-9349 FAX: 860-361-9341
email: rivers@riversalliance.org website: http://www.riversalliance.org

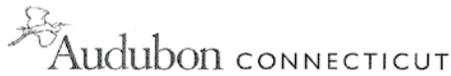
The Farmington River is an extraordinary example of a multiple-use river that actually richly supports its existing and designated uses. It is by many measures the most popular river in the state for fishing and other forms of recreation, and thus is a valuable economic asset. The watershed is a diverse habitat region.

Wild & Scenic designation will help preserve the balance of uses on the river, and save the waterway for the enjoyment and health of future generations. The designation will reflect the longstanding pride of the community in this river, and it strong support for river protection expressed through organizations such as the Farmington River Watershed Association and, of course, the Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee. I look forward to being able to tell people around the state to look to the Upper and Lower Farmington River for models of how a river should be managed.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions any time.

Sincerely,

Margaret Miner,
Executive Director



RESOLUTION

Whereas, Audubon Connecticut shares the conservation and land use goals of the Federal Wild & Scenic River Act, which aims to protect and preserve pristine water courses in America; and

Whereas, Audubon Connecticut shares the conservation and land use goals of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Study Committee; and

Whereas, if the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook receive Wild & Scenic River designation by the United States government, then the towns along the shores of the River and Brook will be eligible to receive funding and technical assistance to protect the conservation values and water quality of the River and Brook; and

Whereas, there is substantial support for the designation from the Greenwich Study Committee of the Town of Bloomfield, the Holcomb Farm board of directors, and Keep The Woods (local conservation organization); and

Whereas, the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are important habitats for birds and other wildlife, which habitats are eligible to be designated by Audubon as Important Bird Areas; and

Whereas, the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook about the Northwest Park and Station 43 Important Bird Areas.

Now therefore, Audubon Connecticut hereby endorses the effort of the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Study Committee to secure the designation of the subject watercourses as Wild and Scenic.



**Farmington Valley Chapter
Trout Unlimited**
The Leader In Coldwater Fisheries Conservation

February 8, 2011

Ms. Joyce Kennedy Raymes and Ms. Sally Rieger
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Joyce and Sally:

I am writing on behalf of the Farmington River Chapter of Trout Unlimited in support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting on December 21, 2010.

Trout Unlimited's mission is to preserve, protect and restore cold water resources, and our chapter region is fortunate to encompass both streams. By virtue of being bottom fed from a flood control dam and without significant industrial, agricultural or residential pollution problems, the Farmington River is now the premier year-round trout stream in Connecticut. We have focused a portion of our efforts on helping to maintain the high quality of both the Farmington River and Salmon Brook for many years. Our efforts benefit not only anglers but also other recreational users and state residents who only picnic alongside these waters. Both streams represent valuable educational and recreational assets, and we applaud the efforts of a number of involved groups such as the Farmington River Watershed Association who help us maintain these magnificent resources.

As river stewards, we encourage the designation of these bodies as Wild and Scenic which will benefit all the communities surrounding the two streams as well as state residents who use them for recreational purposes. As a conservation organization with an eye toward the future, it is appropriate that we lend our support to efforts to protect and enhance these bodies of water.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William F. Case, President
Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

December 15, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of Holcomb Farm to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting on December 15, 2009.

Holcomb Farm shares the resource conservation goals of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. We would like to lend our support to the Study Committee's efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural resources of Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River. A portion of the West Branch of Salmon Brook runs through the farm and is a valuable educational and recreational resource for us. We understand that the farm could benefit from funding and technical assistance associated with a Wild & Scenic designation, which could help us maintain and enhance the stream's water quality so it can continue to be an outstanding resource for generations to come.

As a facility owned by the town of Granby, we hope that the designation will be achieved for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Lukingbeal, President
Holcomb Farm Board of Directors



Roaring Brook Nature Center

70 Gracey Road - Canton, CT 06019 - 860.693.0263 - Fax 860.693.0264
www.roaringbrook.org

December 14, 2009

Sally Rieger
Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

I am writing on behalf of Roaring Brook Nature Center to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

As director of Roaring Brook Nature Center since 1975, I have taken countless numbers of students and adults on trips throughout this watershed and I recognize its importance on so many levels. For many years we have offered a popular summer program for students entitled "Farmington River Ramblin.'" The program focuses on the concept of "multi-use," from the obvious recreational usage to providing energy through hydropower to serving as habitat for all manner of wildlife from bald eagles to rare and endangered species of freshwater mussels. The River is also important for its place in Connecticut history as the site of many well-known industrial endeavors from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Salmon Brook, a major tributary of the Farmington River, is of value in its own right. I can recall the excitement of a group of students when they discovered an impressive population of Superb Jewelwing (*Calopteryx amata*), an uncommon damselfly, along the brook in Granby. This was a valuable educational experience for the students as well as one of value for those researchers who are studying distribution of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Connecticut.

If I may be of further service in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jay Kaplan, Director
Roaring Brook Nature Center

NEW ENGLAND WHITewater TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIPS TARIFFVILLE GORGE

March 11, 2010

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Re: Wild and Scenic Designation of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Rivers

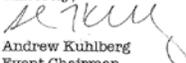
The organizing committee for the New England Whitewater Triple Crown Championships expresses its strong support for Wild and Scenic Designation of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Rivers. The Triple Crown's inaugural event was in April 2009, returning the highest caliber paddling competition to Tariffville Gorge. In this first year, we were able to attract World Champions, current and former U.S. Team members, and Olympians to the area. Historically, the Tariffville Gorge is well known for slalom racing and the past site of Olympic Trial Qualifier races.

The Tariffville gorge is a unique stretch of natural whitewater on the Farmington River. Its character and features make it a perfect site for all styles of canoeing and kayaking. Not just for competition, this section of the Farmington River is one of the best year-round whitewater paddling sites in all of the northeastern U.S.

The Farmington River from Collinsville and into Farmington is also popular for whitewater canoeing and kayaking. Paddlers from all over Connecticut and beyond frequently enjoy this stretch of the river. It's an especially good section for advanced beginner and intermediate boaters to hone their skills. The New England Slalom Series holds an event on the Punchbrook/Crystal Rapids section of the Farmington every spring.

The lower Farmington River is an exceptional whitewater resource. The New England Whitewater Triple Crown Championships strongly support the Wild and Scenic Designation for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Please feel free to contact me at (860) 977-4213 or at ajkuhlberg@nac.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kuhlberg
Event Chairman
New England Whitewater Triple Crown Championships

WWW.TVILLETTRIPLECROWN.COM

December 14, 2009

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury , CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of the Community Farm of Simsbury to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the executive body of the organization at their meeting on December 14, 2009.

The Community Farm of Simsbury's mission includes preservation of a resource through environmentally sound and sustainable practices. This similar mission raises our interest in protection of this, the Farmington River as an outstanding resource. The river and its tributary abuts the farm. This designation in addition to bringing local prestige could bring potential funding for the CFS. The river and stream conservation is an important educational goal of the CFS.

Sincerely,



Diane G. Nash, Secretary
Community Farm of Simsbury, Inc.



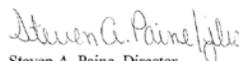
January 13, 2010

Ms. Sally Reiger and Ms. Joyce Kennedy-Raymes
Lower Farmington River / Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce:

I am writing on behalf of the McLean Game Refuge and the entire McLean organization to indicate enthusiastic support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook. It is our collective hope that achieving this designation will help protect and preserve the outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values associated with these waterways.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Paine, Director
McLean Game Refuge

WADE'S FARMS

FARM FRESH PRODUCE



February 22, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook

Wild & Scenic Study Committee

749 Hopmeadow St.,

Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce,

My family and I are pleased to write a letter in support of the Wild and Scenic designation of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Rivers.

Most of the Connecticut grown vegetables and feed corn we harvest are grown in the fertile floodplains of the Farmington River in Simsbury. The locally grown vegetables and corn are fresher, taste better, contain more vitamins and minerals, and are brought only a short distance to our store with minimal transportation costs.

Protection of all the river's resources is important for this excellent, tillable land's ability to produce crops for centuries to come. All the local farms and agricultural soils will benefit from this designation.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald F. Wade".

Ronald F. Wade, President

WADE'S FARMS

Farm Fresh Produce

498 Simsbury Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002

October 22, 2010

Re: **Municipal Plan & Regulation Review
Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee**

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the Hartland Wetlands Commission (HWC), I am currently participating in the process of revising the Wetlands Regulations of the Town of Hartland. On the verge of completion, this process has been a lengthy one, as the regulations had not been amended for many years. The HWC resolved to comprehensively review and assess each section of the regulations, and to update the document where required to better reflect Hartland's evolving commitment to the preservation of wetlands and watercourses.

The HWC is composed of volunteers, and Hartland's municipal government has limited staff resources. Consequently, to guide us through the regulation update process, we have relied on our own personal research, the expertise of our Wetlands Enforcement Officer, and outside expertise where we can find it.

It has been fortuitous that the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee developed their "Municipal Plan & Regulation Review" at the very time that the HWC was in need of such a review of the land use regulations of nearby towns. With this guide at hand, the HWC has been able to compare our water-related regulatory measures with those of Granby, Simsbury and seven other nearby towns that share the same watershed system with Hartland! Partly as a result of this increased awareness of what adjacent municipalities are doing to protect their wetlands and watercourses, the HWC is about to implement increases in our upland review buffer area as well as in our application fee structure. In addition, we shall be adding sections to accommodate conservation easements and timber harvest notifications.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the HWC, to the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee for producing the "Municipal Plan & Regulation Review". The Committee's work has made clear to me the importance of establishing a coordinated regional effort to protect the water resources of this lovely part of the world for the flora and fauna, including humans, who depend upon it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hank Prussing".

Hank Prussing

Member, Hartland Wetlands Commission
Hartland, Connecticut 06027

Vincent L. Bishop
14 Main St. Ext.
Tariffville, Ct. 06081

Sally Reiger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, Ct. 06070

Dear Sally and Joyce.

I am writing in support of the wild and scenic designation of the Farmington River/Salmon Brook area.

As property Manager/caretaker of Folly Farm in Simsbury, it has been my privilege to experience one of the oxbows and part of the river almost daily. The diversity of the wildlife, both flora and Fauna is incredible, and being able to observe nature in this setting is amazing.

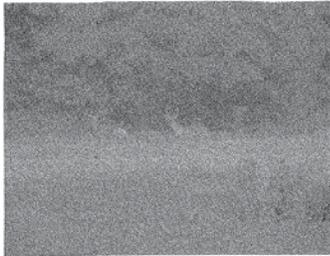
As a resident of riverfront property, and a kayaker fisherman, I appreciate the recreational aspect of the area as well, and am able, almost daily in season to observe kayakers and fishermen utilizing and enjoying the lower regions of the river.

We must do all we can to protect and preserve this area so that we and future generations can enjoy it.

Sincerely,



Vincent L. Bishop



February 10, 2010

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

As a riparian owner along the banks of the Farmington River just a short distance from where the Salmon Brook enters the Farmington, my support for the Wild and Scenic Designation of these two remarkable rivers is strong.

The cultural, historical, biological, recreational, archeological, geological wonders are all before my eyes on a daily basis. The photos at the top of the letter are, from left to right, the view to the North, the view straight across and the view to the South of the Farmington River from my home. The flowing waters are a part of my daily life. I am privileged to observe the river at will thru all the seasons, and to explore, photograph, fish, kayak, and swim in its waters. We must take all possible measures to protect and enhance these beautiful natural resources forever. I am so happy to help in the quest for Wild and Scenic Designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook River with this letter of endorsement.

Sincerely,



Wanda H. Colman

14 Main St. Extension, Tariffville, CT 06081

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Andrew Kramonen	Brighton, MA, USA
	Roger Brown	Durango, CO, USA
	Jack Nelson	New Hartford, CT
	A. Blanchard	W. Simsbury, CT
	Lucy Lindley	N. Granby, CT
	MELISSA ROSS	Windsor, CT
	Mark Woodclawson	N. Amherst, MA
	EMILY JACKSON	Rock Island, TN
	Tyler Bignard	Amherst, MA
	Evan Uthus	Annapolis, MD
	Taylor Uthus	Bertrandown, MD
	Taylor Kramer	East Granby, CT, USA
	Melissa Salls	Tariffville, CT 06081
	Emily Tillman	Middlebury, VT 05753
	Kenneth Pearson	Middletown, CT 06450
	Wade Raymond	Windsor, CT USA
	Todd Seabold	Woodstock, CT USA
	T. J. Brega	Windsor, CT
	Nancy Johnson	New Hartford, CT
	Mary Ann Dubois	Farmington, CT 06031
	Mark Trahan	Worcester, MA, USA

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Christopher Fisher	East Granby, CT USA
	Dan Bauer	New Britain, CT USA
	Martin Withman	West Hartford, CT USA
	Noah Helms	Colebrook, CT USA
	Sandra Pratt	Glocester, RI USA
	David Su	Amherst, MA, US
	Jacqueline A. Smith	Bristol, CT USA
	Bill Warren	Springfield, MA, USA
	Jeanmarie Miller	Pleasant Valley, CT USA
	Eric C. DeCap	Simsbury, CT 06070
	Kara Kleckner	Pottsville, PA USA
	Jeff Beland	Draftfield, MA
	Arthur Lopez	Morris, CT 06867
	Katrina Vanhoye	Ottawa, ON Canada
	Glenn Pratt	Glocester, RI
	Dane Jackson	Rock Island, IN
	Michael Porter	Chicheston, MA
	Brian Kirkwood	Leicester, NH
	Patrick J. Cleary	St Albans Bay, VT
	Bryan Kirk	FAYETTEVILLE, WV

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Andrew J. Fickler	Canter CT 06019
	Amy Grosland	Cheshire CT 06021
	Greg Grosland	Cheshire CT 06021
	Paula SAAF	EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108
	David Sage	EAST HARTFORD CT 06108
	Nick Troutman	Rock Island, TN, US
	Jean-Etienne Trippin	Westport, CT, USA
	RICHARD S. TURPIN	Bloomfield CT 06004
	Ann Valvano	Taffville CT 06081
	BRIAN CORPER	WINDSOR LOCKS CT 06096
	Steve L. Sawyer	S. Plainfield RI 02879
	BRUCE UTMS	Greenwood, Md. 20874
	Pamela Malan	New York, NY 10128
	Eric Berkman	Rockville MD 20853
	John Madon	Busseton, CT 06021
	Krista Whetler Anderson	Kingsley, MA 02364
	181 Riverknolls	Avon, CT 06001
	Lee Whelan	Avon, CT 06001
	Allan French	Hartford, CT

Kayaker Endorsement of Wild & Scenic for Lower Farmington River (T-Ville)

We the undersigned give our support to or endorse legislation to designate the
Lower Farmington River as a partnership national Wild & Scenic river.

April 8-10, 2011

Signature	Name (Print)	City, State, Country
	Sarah Gwin	Simsbury CT
	Merritt Gasho	Simsbury CT
	Thomas A. Gasho	Simsbury, CT
	Susan LeLoup	Simsbury, CT
	William L. Heavin	Fitchburg, MA
	Virginia Gisho	Simsbury, CT
	Linda Schwedler	Hartford, CT
	Walter Brown	Suffield CT
	John Howard	Suffield, CT
	Ian German	Saratoga, NY
	Robert Kawalewski	East Hampton, MA
	Sally Peters	East Hampton, MA
	Shirley Mae New	Bloomfield, CT
	Paula Swistak	Avon, CT
	Ethan Kuzvat	Simsbury, CT
	Ari Kupiath	Simsbury, CT
	Bob Beeman	East Hartford
	Robert Connolly	Carmel, NY
	Deborah Smith	Coverly, CT
	Jennifer Metzger	Bloomfield, CT



Please show your support for the lower Farmington /Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Designation by signing below.
We'll share this list with public officials whose support we need to make this Wild & Scenic designation a reality.

Name	Street Address/ or Affiliation	Town, State	Signature
Ian Clark	140 Kimberly Rd	East Granby CT	<i>Ian Clark</i>
Susan Ducoat	1 Muirfield Ln	Avon, CT	<i>Susan Ducoat</i>
ALMEE PETRAS	FRWA - SIMSBURY		<i>Almee Petras</i>
Cynthia Briggs	27 Indian Hill Rd	Canter, CT	<i>Cynthia Briggs</i>
BEN CALMAN	37 TAMARA CIRCLE	AVON, CT	<i>Ben Calman</i>
Jacqueline Talbot	250 Washington Road Woodbury	Woodbury, CT	<i>Jacqueline Talbot</i>
CHRISTINA DAVIES	2 RIVER VIEW	Avon CT	<i>Christina Davies</i>
Jamie Fosburgh	National Park Service	Canby, MA	<i>Jamie Fosburgh</i>
Heinz Rosenthal	43 Byron Dr	Avon	<i>Heinz Rosenthal</i>
Jennifer Alday	15 Kingsbridge	Avon	<i>Jennifer Alday</i>
ALAN ALDAY	15 KINGSBRIDGE	Avon	<i>Alan Alday</i>
Lisa Lewin	15 Avalon Dr	Avon	<i>Lisa Lewin</i>
John P. King	13 Towpath Lane	Avon	<i>John P. King</i>
Teresa Lee Wilson	64 Mountain View Ave.	Avon	<i>Teresa Lee Wilson</i>
Saul - Mary Lata	108 Woodgate Circle	Enfield, CT	<i>Saul & Mary Lata</i>
CANDICE CHIRIOTIS	91 Cider Brook Road	Avon, CT	<i>Candice Chiriotis</i>
Bonnie Zukas	425 Denchiff Rd	Avon, CT	<i>Bonnie Zukas</i>



April, 9, 2011

Sally Rieger and Joyce Kennedy Raymes
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Sally & Joyce,

I am writing on behalf of our business to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Our business recognizes the scenic and recreational value of the Lower Farmington River. Maintenance and improvement of the quality of the River and its surrounds has both direct and indirect economic benefits for our business.

Sincerely,

Signature: *Marc Lubetkin*

Printed Name Marc Lubetkin, Position: owner/mgr

Name of Business: Red Stone Pub

Appendix 4: The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Support of The Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Boundary Change

CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORT POTENTIAL CHANGE IN THE BOUNDARY OF THE UPPER FARMINGTON WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

To: District Board

April 4, 2011

On August 26, 1994, the United States Congress designated a 14-mile segment of the Upper Farmington River as a "Wild and Scenic River" from the Goodwin Dam on the West Branch of the Farmington River to the Canton and New Hartford town line on the main stem of the river. The MDC voted to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Park Service, CT Department of Environmental Protection and the Farmington River Watershed Association for the management of the Wild and Scenic River including the establishment of the Farmington River Coordinating Committee.

In November 2006, the Congress authorized the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study to include the Farmington River from the Canton town line to the confluence with the Connecticut River in Windsor. According to the Wild and Scenic study staff, the Town of Canton has requested that the section of the Farmington River from the Canton Town Line to the confluence with the Nepaug River be included in the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic River rather than the Lower Farmington River segment which would start below the Collinsville Dam. The Farmington River Coordinating Committee has approved this proposed boundary change with the condition that MDC support this change. Additionally, the boundary change must be adopted by an act of Congress.

This boundary change would include the West Branch, East Branch and Nepaug Rivers; it would be consistent with MDC's management of the Farmington River and the management plan adopted under the Wild and Scenic designation. This will support the MDC position with regard to the proposed Department of Environmental Protection stream flow regulations that the Wild and Scenic Management Plan meets the intent of the proposed regulations and should be exempt from further control.

It is therefore recommended that:

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

April 4, 2011 ■ 66

Be it Resolved; that the District Board of the Metropolitan District supports the change in the boundary of the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic river, to be changed from the New Hartford/Canton town line to the confluence of the Nepaug River and Farmington River in Canton.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine C. Shaw
District Clerk

*On motion made by Commissioner Lupo and duly seconded,
the report was received and resolution adopted by majority
vote of those present.*

Commissioner Reichlin abstained.

Appendix 5: Wild and Scenic Study Outreach and Education Examples

NEWSLETTER

Fifth in a series of newsletters to keep the community informed about the Wild and Scenic Study process.

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study



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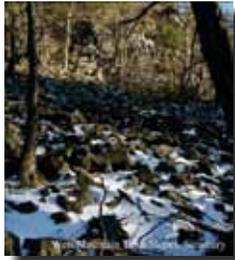
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Meet the Committee Members

Crunch, Tear, and Scrape: Origins of A Wild and Scenic Landscape

In this, the fifth Wild & Scenic Study Committee newsletter, we are featuring Geology as an Outstanding Resource Value (ORV) of the Study Area. Each of the previous newsletters focused on one of the four other ORVs, Water Quality, Biodiversity, the Cultural Landscape and Recreation. Unlike the other ORVs, which we have studied as river and brook corridor resources, the Geology ORV encompasses the whole area of the ten Study Area towns, Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor.

The geologic history of the Wild & Scenic Study Area has given it a varied landscape. The westernmost part of the Study Area is upland - hilly terrain with rocky soil. By contrast, Farmington, Avon and Simsbury, East Granby, Bloomfield and Windsor have extensive flat areas with good to excellent farmland soils.



These areas are punctuated by the familiar traprock ridges with their cliffs, and these are not the only rugged areas in our towns. Other examples are the Gorge on Mountain Brook in Enders State Forest in Granby and the well-known Tariffville Gorge on the Farmington, where white water draws international kayakers. In spite of these dramatic high-lights, most of our landscape has a gentle and domestic look. This appearance belies its geologic origins, which can be summed up as "crunch, tear and scrape".

CRUNCH: One of the things that makes Geology an Outstanding Resource Value in our Study Area is the fact that within the ten towns, we contain a billion years of geologic history. According to former State Geologist Ralph Lewis, that's a very long time span for such a small area. The very oldest bedrock of our Study Area, at a billion years old, lies in western Hartland and is a piece of Proto-North America. In the far distant past, the Proto-North American continent and the African continent were separated by the ancient Iapetus Sea. Offshore from Proto-North America lay the Shelburne Volcanic Island Arc. About 500 million years ago the two continents began to converge. Eventually they crushed and metamorphosed the volcanic island arc, squeezed out the ancient sea,



and forced sea bottom sediments up over the edge of Proto-North America, leaving a bit of Proto-North American bedrock in northwestern Hartland uncovered. Today, according to Ralph Lewis, "The former eastern margin of North America is represented by the billion year old gneisses and schists to the west of Cameron's line. Remnants of the Iapetus Ocean in the form of metamorphosed deep ocean sediments and a portion of the Shelburne Volcanic Island Arc under-

the continents were shifting again as North America and Africa began to separate. Rifts developed in the earth's crust. The actual tear that ultimately separated the two continents developed into the Atlantic Ocean, but a number of other less significant rifts also formed, including the Hartford Basin. There, some tears in the crust of the earth were deep enough to allow lava to flow out. In some places it flowed out under the earth's surface and cooled underground. This is how the Barndoor Hills in Granby and Onion Mountain in Simsbury and Canton, made of a kind of traprock, diabase, were formed. The softer material above and around the diabase has since eroded, leaving these landscape features we enjoy today. In some other places where rifts developed, the magma flowed across the land's surface, over sedimentary material that had eroded from the mountains formed during the "Crunch" phase. This magma hardened into the basalt, another type of traprock, that makes up Penwood and Talcott Mountains.

SCRAPE: "Scrape" sums up the effects of glaciation on our landscape. Most of the glacial deposits in Connecticut result from the Wisconsinian glaciation between 26,000 and 15,000 years ago, although two ages of glacial till indicate that Connecticut has undergone at least

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study

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two periods of glaciation. As thick sheets of ice slowly ground their way over the land from the north, they scraped up soil and rock in their paths, carrying the material along in the ice. When the glaciers began to melt, a mixture of accumulated debris was left behind. That unsorted material is called till. Somewhere in your town you will find till. When you dig in it, you find rocks of various sizes, along with sand and gravel. A common feature of our area's uplands, till is one reason that many New England farmers abandoned Connecticut farms to travel to the Midwest where soils are much better.

In what might seem like a contradiction, the glaciers also provided some of our towns excellent soil for farming, a very valuable natural resource. As the glaciers melted, glacial debris blocked the flow of watercourses including the Farmington River. Glacial debris in the Farmington area caused the river's water to back up, forming glacial Lake Farmington on the west side of the Talcott Mountain ridgeline. Silt and sand settled out of the melt water and eventually became the basis of the alluvial soils of the Farmington Valley. On the east side of the ridge, melt water that formed glacial Lake Hitchcock carried sediments which are the basis of the excellent soils of the Central Valley, including prime farmland soils in Bloomfield and Windsor. The international tobacco trade that was a major Connecticut export business for many years was possible because of these alluvial soils.

The geologic resources of the Wild & Scenic Study Area not only include soils that are valuable for growing food and ridges that offer both refuges for wildlife and open space for recreation but also include the sand and gravel aquifers that are the source of much of our area's drinking water. Over the years, geologic resources have been important to our communities in many other ways. Some examples include sand and gravel operations in Farmington, a traprock quarry in East Granby and brownstone quarries in Simsbury which provided building materials for the Belden Building (Town Hall today).

One of the responsibilities of the Wild & Scenic Study Committee is to develop an advisory Management Plan with protection goals, priorities and protection tools to conserve and enhance the ORVs, including Geology. For geology, protection priorities include protecting agricultural soils and local farms, protecting drinking water aquifers, protecting significant and diverse geologic features and planning for a changing, dynamic river. Some of these priorities are already being addressed by town and state regulations, by purchase of conservation easements to protect working farms and by acquisition of open space. For more discussion on what might be done to safeguard important geologic resources, see the advisory Management Plan on the Wild & Scenic Study website at: www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org.

We're Going to Congress!

And we're working hard to make it happen this coming summer!

It is almost three years since the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee began the process of seeking a Partnership Wild & Scenic designation for these two high quality watercourses with very special attributes that make them great assets to the ten towns through which they run. The Committee has determined that there are five Outstanding Resources Values (Geology, Water Quality, Biodiversity, Cultural Landscape and Recreation), any one of which would make the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook eligible for designation.

The Committee has worked hard to inform town governments, local other organizations and the people of the towns about what a Wild & Scenic designation would mean for their communities.

A number of organizations and individuals have already written letters to the Committee supporting the designation, as have some of the ten towns. Gathering endorsements is one project in which Committee members are engaged because without the support of the town governments and the people they represent, the Congress and the Senate of the United States will not vote to designate our watercourses as Partnership Wild & Scenic. Public support makes the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook suitable for designation.

The Committee, and especially Joyce Kennedy Raymes, our National Park Service Study Coordinator, are also busy putting together the advisory Management Plan for the lower Farm-

ington and Salmon Brook. The Management Plan, which will accompany a Study Report, will provide guidance for protecting the Outstanding Resources Values which make the two watercourses eligible for designation.

While the documentation of the Outstanding Resource Values is based on science, the process of getting a designation is a political one. Congressman Chris Murphy, whose office has been immensely helpful in dealing with a number of Wild & Scenic related questions, will put together a bill to go before Congress this summer. That means that all our work must be completed by April and turned in to him.

We've relied on help and support from many sources, including the staff and elected officials, leaders of the ten towns involved in the study, local organizations, our representatives to the Connecticut legislature, our legislators at the Federal level (Congressmen Chris Murphy and John Larson, and Senators Lieberman and Dodd), Jamie Fosburgh from the Boston office of the National Park Service, and of course, all those Study Committee members who have come to meetings, attended public events and talked to visitors, written articles, produced posters and videos, provided refreshments, buttonholed friends and talked about the project, put personal plans on hold to work on the Committee, and most likely done many other unrecognized things to help. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all, and look forward to the benefits of having our watercourses become part of the National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

Sally Rieger, *Chair of the Study Committee*

Featured Town: Burlington

The first inhabitants of present-day Burlington were members of the Tunxis Indian Tribe. The first English settlers of Connecticut arrived in 1636. In 1640, John Haynes, governor of Connecticut, negotiated on behalf of the settlers a purchase from the Tunxis Indians of a large tract of land west of Hartford. The newly acquired land was renamed Tunxis Plantation and in 1645 was incorporated as the Town of Farmington. The original land area of Farmington included the present-day towns of Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, New Britain, Plainville, Southington and parts of other towns.

Disagreement between two Bristol parishes led to a split and in 1806 the General Assembly allowed the Parish of West Britain to establish itself as the Town of Burlington. Although America

was independent from Great Britain for three decades, tradition held that the new name for West Britain be selected by the General Assembly to honor England's 3rd Earl of Burlington.

While most 19th century Burlington residents engaged in farming, several small industries were established, utilizing the water power of Burlington's numerous brooks and streams. Burlington's small mills and manufactories produced a wide variety of products, such as cider brandy, flintlock muskets, wooden shingles, mantel clocks, satinet, carriages, coffins, needles and charcoal. Burlington's numerous natural resources were harvested, including copper from an ore deposit which straddles the Bristol/Burlington border, granite for building, chestnut for railroad ties and other building materials. In winter

even ice was harvested.

Today the Town of Burlington is a rural combination of forest, watershed land and unique neighborhoods.

Burlington is home to Sessions Woods, a 772-acre wildlife management and learning center that boasts three hiking trails with access to the Tunxis Trail. The Burlington Land Trust dedicates its efforts to preserving the natural resources of the town including over 30 miles of the Blue-Blazed Tunxis Trail. The Farmington River Watershed Association keeps watch over our section of the Farmington River and its banks. The Farmington Valley Greenway's "Rails-to-Trails" multi-use path runs along side the Farmington and connects to Collinsville to the north and Unionville to the east.

by Paul Rochford

erratic, "balance rock" is monumental. The microclimate caused by elevation and atmospheric moisture produces hot, humid summers with sometimes very violent thunderstorms (even tornadoes), and long cold winters with heavy snowfall and severe ice storms, as recently witnessed in late 2008. Although the resident moose population feels at home, today's Hartland residents seem to know they are "a breed apart" and that for all of Hartland's beauty and charm, it is not a place for everyone.

Early records indicate the Tunxis (the point where the river bends) Indians used the extensive acreage in our section of Connecticut primarily as a summer preserve. Records show that the first white men to settle here arrived in the 1750s. By 1761 Hartland was incorporated as the State's 69th town.

The colonial settlers carved many farms and homesteads out of the rough terrain and virgin forests. Many stone walls were built and today endow cultural, natural, and aesthetic beauty. The streams on the East and West Mountains were sources of water for oxen and power for mills and the "Hollow" was fertile bottom land. Saw mills, grist mills, tanneries, blacksmiths and shops were operating. One of the first calico factories in America, Ward's Mill, opened in 1836 on the West Branch of the Farmington River north of Hitchcockville and did a thriving business.

Although farming moved west to greener rock-free pastures and the flooding of the valley for the Barkhamsted Reservoir removed all traces of the village of Hartland Hollow our townspeople continue to be united, hard-working, caring people and actively involved with our community and voluntarily offer their time and talents.

Today, Hartland is one of the state's most rural communities and still enjoys much of the same rural character it had more than

Hartland

lands of Connecticut, highest incorporated farms, we have the oldest Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic designation, dates back a billion years, and the glacial ice

half a century ago, yet we are not immune from today's pressures of development. Open space lands make up over 75% of Hartland, owned primarily by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In 1981, after leasing the Gaylord House for 50 years to the town, the MDC transferred it to the Hartland Historical Society, and after many years of work, in 1989, it was dedicated as a meeting place and museum. In a 2006 town-wide survey, access to natural resources was a high priority and a land trust was supported by the majority of respondents. With the help of a grant from the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) the Hartland Land Trust was formed with a mission to conserve and manage significant lands.

Within our 22,300 acres of land, Hartland possesses a significant network of streams, rivers and waterways. Our water quality is outstanding and supplied to over 400,000 Hartford county residents. We are fortunate to be a dual Wild & Scenic corridor town, participating in both the 1994 National Wild & Scenic "Partnership River" designation and the current Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study. The headwaters of the West Branch of the Salmon Brook originate in East Hartland and flow into the Lower Farmington River. Hartland's extensive forest system provides exceptional protection for the waterways and both Upper and Lower Wild & Scenic are supported in our Plan of Conservation and Development.

Our legendary forefathers eloquently write of Hartland as "this little strip of earth we affectionately call, This Land of Ours, and we foresee we will continue to be one of the most beautiful small towns not only in the State of Connecticut, but in the USA".

By Sue Murray

Sources:
Hartland Natural Resource Inventory
Hartland Plan of Conservation and Development
History of Hartland, Stanley A. Ransom
The Gaines Notes, Hartland Historical Society
The Paul Crunden Journal, Hartland Historical Society



Meet the Committee Members

Sue Murray ~ Hartland

Born and raised in NY, Sue spent a memorable year abroad in a high school work/study program. She received her BA degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Colorado, and married a college classmate, Don, and relocated to his hometown of Hartland.



Sue is an all season's person, treasuring her organic vegetable and winter hardy cactus gardens, and thriving on athletic activities.

She has been a Materials Manager for over twenty-five years, at Sorenson Lighted Controls, Inc, headquartered in Hartford, a leading indicator light manufacturer with integrated LED technology.

Sue's strong environmental commitment has driven her to pilot successful green programs at her workplace and locally by her work on Hartland's Natural Resource Inventory and Plan of Conservation and Development, as well as her participation on the Hartland Land Trust Board and the Lower Farmington River/ Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee.

Kathy Dunn ~ East Hartland

Kathy Dunn is a resident of East Hartland and a former board member of the Hartland Land Trust. She serves as the Associate Director of the Middle School at the Kingswood-Oxford School in West Hartford, CT where she also teaches French.

Kathy is a canoeer, alpine and nordic skier, and a hiker and camper so conservation efforts are of great interest to her. She works with students daily to cultivate their love of the outdoors and to develop their ability to organize and to make a difference in the world around them.



Paul Rochford ~ Burlington



Paul Rochford is one of two Burlington representatives on the Wild & Scenic Study Committee. He is also president of the Burlington Land Trust and a member of Burlington's Conservation Commission. Paul moved to Connecticut in 1985 from Queens, New York. He credits his conserva-

tion "bona fides" to experiencing the contrast of close quarter living in New York to the Farmington Valley's seemingly abundant forest and trails. "I was immediately taken with the Blue Trail system", says Rochford. "A friend from work took me out on the Tuxis Trail and I instinctively saw the value in preserving this resource."

Paul has lived in Burlington since 1996 with his wife and three children.

Sarah Hincks ~ Burlington

Sarah has been on the Board of Directors of the Farmington River Watershed Association since 1997 and is the FRWA representative to the Study Committee. A resident of Burlington, Sarah was Executive Director of the

Quinnipiac River Watershed Association from 1991 to 1996. Sarah received her Masters in 2006 from Antioch New England's Environmental Advocacy and Organizing Program. She spends a lot of time hiking and biking and is a watershed watchdog, as well as chairing the fund raising committee for FRWA.



Tom Small ~ Burlington

Tom Small is a long time Burlington resident. He is an avid hiker and fly fisherman. Tom serves on the board of the Burlington Land Trust.

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org

www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org



Printed on 100% recycled paper.
Printed with vegetable based inks.

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild and Scenic Study

About the Study Committee

The Study Committee's membership includes locally appointed representatives from each town in the study area, and representatives from The Stanley Works, CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), National Park Service, the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), the Tarrifville Village Association (TVA), Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA), Pequabuck River Watershed Association (PRWA), and the Salmon Brook Watershed Association (SBWA).

Avon:

Diane Field*-Riparian Landowner
Harry Spring*-Former Inland Wetlands Commissioner
Rob House*-Conservationist

Bloomfield:

Paula Jones*-Conservationist
Kevin Gough*-Conservationist

Burlington:

Paul Rochford*-Burlington Land Trust
Thomas Small*-Burlington Land Trust

Canton:

Cynthia Griggs*-Conservationist
David Left*-Author, Former Deputy Commissioner of DEP

East Granby:

Ian Clark*-East Granby Land Trust
Mike Krammen*-Engineer

Farmington:

Walter Sargent*-Executive Director, Farmington Land Trust
Larry Schlegel*-Angler
Josef Treggor*-Ecologist/Educator, MERA

Granby:

Carolyn Flint*-Conservation Commission
Eric Lakingbeal*-Land-use attorney, Wetlands Commission member

Hartland:

Sue Murray*-Hartland Plan of C&D Committee, Hartland Land Trust
Kathy Dunn*-Hartland Land Trust

Simsbury:

Sally Rieger*-Simsbury Land Trust, FRWA Volunteer
Margery Winters*-Simsbury Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission

Suzanne Battos*-Conservationist

Windor:

Frank Davis*-Chair, Conservation Commission, Riparian Landowner
Betsy Conger-Loomis Chafee School Science Dept.
Terry Langevin*-Friends of Northwest Park Board Member
Melissa Vanek*-Environmental/Science Educator
The Stanley Works:
Kurt Link*-Lean, Productivity & Facilities Mgr., TSW

FRWA:

Sarah Hinks*-FRWA Board, Volunteer
Eileen Fielding*-FRWA Executive Director
Aimee Petras*-FRWA Staff

CFPA:

Eric Hammerling*-Executive Director

TVA:

Wanda Colman*-Member, Photographer

SBWA:

David Tolti*-SBWA Board

PRWA:

Mary Moulton*-PRWA President

CT-DEP:

Susan Peterson*

Maryann Nusom Haverstock*

National Park Service:

Jamie Fosburgh*-Rivers Program Manager
Joyce Kennedy Raymes*-Study Coordinator

* Officially Appointed

Lower Farmington River Salmon Brook *Wild and Scenic Study*



The Wild



The Scenic

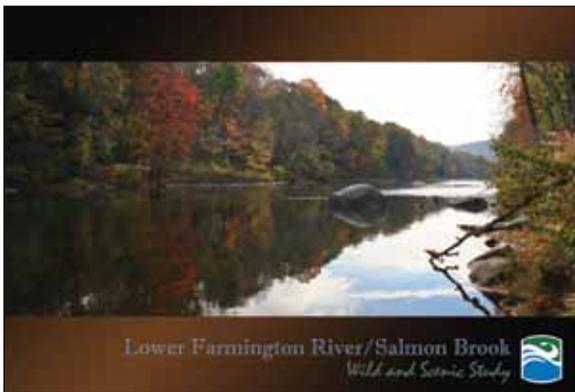


The Designation

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study is a partnership of town representatives, river organizations, CT DEP, and other river stakeholders who are gathering evidence and developing support for a National Park Service "Wild & Scenic" river designation. This designation recognizes the outstanding resource values of the very best rivers in the United States. Partnership "Wild and Scenic" status provides funding for river conservation while keeping river management in the hands of town government. Your support for designation helps ensure the protection and enhancement of these waterways.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR UPCOMING SPRING FORUMS AND VISIT OUR WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION.

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org
www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org



“DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR RIVER IS “ONE OF THE NATION’S BEST”?

A Wild & Scenic designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook will help protect their outstanding resource values (ORV). What makes them so special?

Geology: The geology of our area is highly diverse. It has a variety of geological features such as traprock ridges, river gorges and diverse agricultural soils, and also has features from a wide span of geological eras. Geology has been important in determining human settlement patterns and land uses and also supports a wonderful diversity of plants and animal communities.

Water Quality: Salmon Brook, "one of the last true cold water fisheries in Connecticut" has excellent water quality. The Lower Farmington River has very high water quality for most of its length. High water quality supports biodiversity, recreation and the cultural landscape.

Biodiversity: For six of our towns, the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project has developed a solid data base on unique species and special natural communities in the river corridor. The area supports regionally and globally rare species and communities of plants and animals. These will be further researched in the four towns of Barlington, Herland, Bloomfield and Windsor, which were not included in the Biodiversity Project.

Cultural Landscape: Our towns have a rich history. The Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridor hold important evidence of Native American settlements, trading sites, and agricultural fields predating European arrival. Colonial history and the development of industry in New England are closely connected to both Salmon Brook and the lower Farmington River, as are present day farms, concert venues, and various river-related businesses.

Recreation: The rivers and their scenic corridors provide many, varied recreational opportunities. Fishing, paddling, canoeing, in the towns' riverside parks, hiking, boating and tubing along the Rail-to-Trails paths are just some of the activities the public enjoys.

Help preserve these wonderful assets by supporting a Wild & Scenic designation. For more information visit our websites at:

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org
www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org

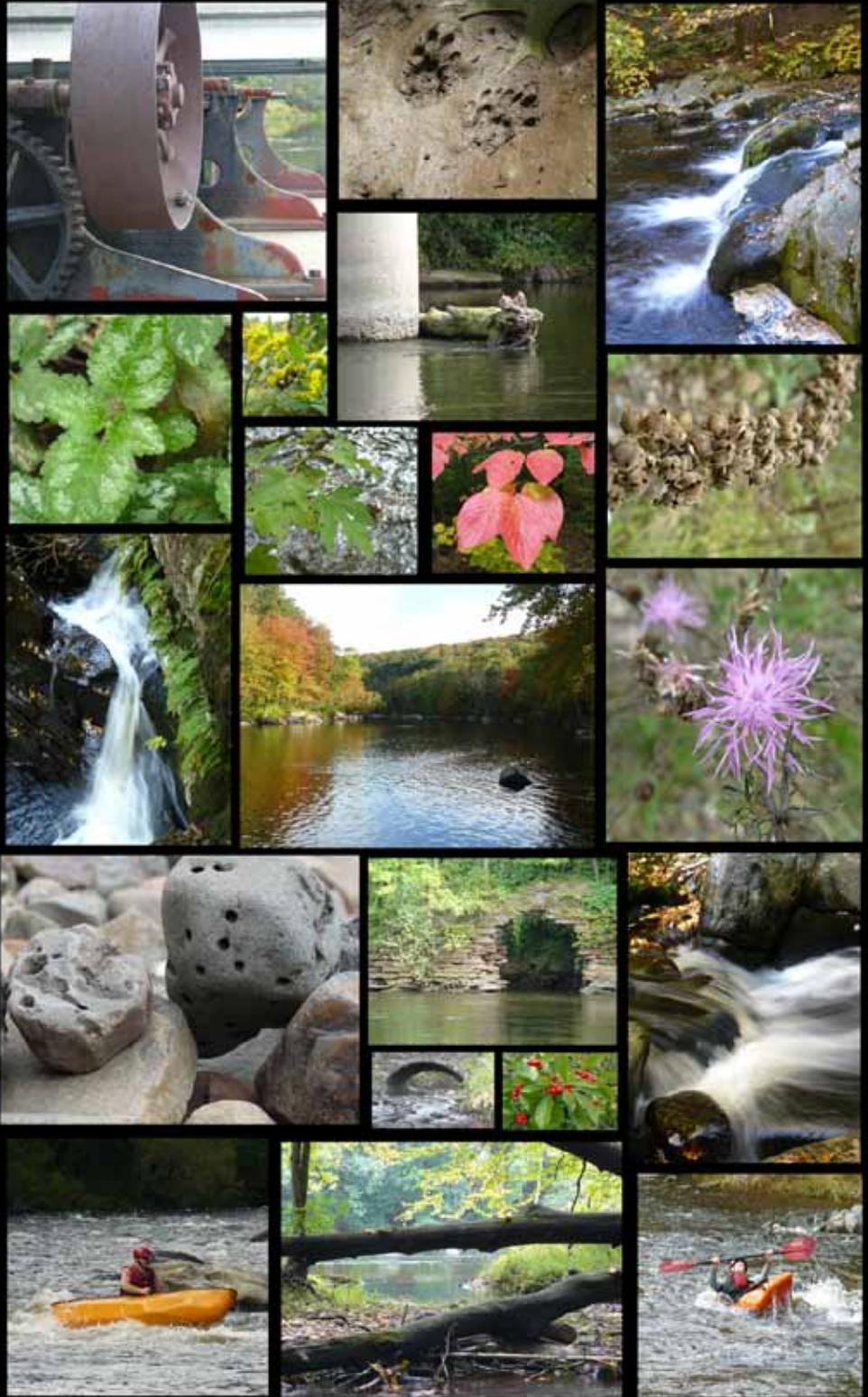


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Farmington River Watershed

2008 Wild and Scenic Study



PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

March 7, 2008

Mr. Michael Clark, Chair
Farmington Town Council
18 Morgan Place
Unionville, CT 06085

Dear Mr. Clark:

The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee would like to update you on our activities, and we ask that you please share this letter with your

Council Members. In April, the Study Committee – including representatives from 10 Farmington Valley towns, the National Park Service, the Farmington River and Salmon Brook Watershed Associations, and others – began a Congressionally authorized feasibility study on the potential designation of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as “Wild & Scenic.” Once again we thank your town for appointing community members to represent Farmington in this effort!

As you may know, the process undertaken by the Study Committee has three components:

- Determining if the river is eligible for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic Rivers system by demonstrating it has cultural, natural, or recreational values of regional or national significance (these are called “Outstandingly Remarkable Values” or ORV’s);
- Determining if the river is suitable for Wild & Scenic designation by substantiating local support and commitment to designation; and
- Developing a river Management Plan with local support that details the strategy for future protection of the area’s outstanding values.

Below is a summary of the activities that have been ongoing in these three areas:

Eligibility

Thus far, the Study Committee has considered a variety of ORV’s of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. Ken Feder and Marc Banks, local archeologists with expertise in Native American history and culture, have spoken to the committee about various sites along the river where artifacts such as spear points, arrow heads and animal bones indicate that as long ago as 10,000 years, Native Americans traded and camped along the river. Hank Gruner, the Interim Museum Director of the Children’s Museum, also presented a program to the Study Committee based on the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project. Data from the Project indicates that the lower Farmington harbors a regionally important diversity of freshwater mussels, that its floodplain is the site of the major population of the plant, starry campton, in New England and that the river corridor is an important migratory bird route. Also, Salmon Brook has been recognized as having exceptionally good water quality. The Study Committee has noted the recreational value of the river and of Salmon Brook, both of which are important resources for fishing. Additionally, boating is important on the lower Farmington, both on flat water sections and in the Tariffville Gorge, which has been the site of Olympic kayak trials.

Although much information is available about the archeological, biological and recreational resources of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook, there is a need for further research in some areas, so the Study Committee will be making and reviewing requests for proposals (RPP’s) for research projects to fill in gaps. Of course, the

committee will need to prioritize the proposals submitted in order to use the federally allocated funds available for the studies effectively. One proposal currently in consideration is to fill some of the gaps in knowledge on Native American sites between Tariffville Gorge and the confluence of the Farmington River and the Connecticut River in Windsor and along Salmon Brook. Another proposal to be considered is for aerial photography of the river corridor, which would enable the Study Committee to determine the status of the vegetative buffer along the river, a healthy buffer being vital to water quality. A third area needing study is to measure the economic benefits of recreational use of the river. An economic study of the Upper Farmington River documented a \$9.5 million total economic benefit to the 5 towns stretching from Canton to Colebrook, and we believe the economic benefit to the 10 towns involved with this Study is likely quite considerable, but it is currently unknown.

Suitability

Local community understanding and support for a potential Wild & Scenic designation is essential to achieving Congressional approval of the designation. The Outreach and Education Subcommittee of the Study Committee has started working on how best to provide information on a regular basis to town officials, businesses, and the public at large, and expects to be very active starting this fall. The Subcommittee is also charged with listening to and addressing any questions or concerns about the Wild & Scenic program and its implications for the towns involved that may arise during this Study.

Management Plan

Determining and understanding the resources that the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook offer is only one part of the Wild and Scenic feasibility study. Under the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program, a river management and protection plan needs to be developed before the final application for the designation is made to Congress. If Congress should designate the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic, the management plan for them will be comparable to the one in place for the upper Farmington River. A guiding principle of the Management Plan is that private landowners along the river will continue to be the primary stewards of their property, that towns will continue to be the regulators of land use along the river, and that there will be no federal ownership of land as a result of the Wild & Scenic designation. The Management and Protection Plan Subcommittee of the Study Committee is just beginning its work.

More information about the feasibility study for designating the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic rivers can be found at www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org. Also, as the Chairman of the Study Committee, I want to invite you to contact me directly via phone at 658-7317 or e-mail at dfrandsr@aol.com if you should have any immediate questions or concerns. Of course, you can also contact your town representatives, (names and contact information) and/or Eric Hammerling, Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association (658-4442, ex. 205).

Best regards,

Walter L. Sargent
Larry Schlegel

Farmington Representatives
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee

Please Join Us!

Tell Your Friends!



...cordially invites you to attend a

Fall Open House

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study is well underway. We want to share our Study information with you, and

we need your input!

Come and talk with Committee members and resource experts who have worked for three years to bring you the most relevant information about the Wild and Scenic River designation.

Tell us what you think about our findings, draft management plan, and the benefits of Wild & Scenic designation for your town.

Open House dates and locations:

Canton Community Center – 40 Dryer Ave, Collinsville
Thursday, October 15 – 5:00 to 8:30 pm

East Granby Community Center – 9 Center St, East Granby
Thursday, October 29 – 5:00 to 8:30 pm

Farmington Library – 6 Monteith Dr, Farmington
Thursday, November 5 – 5:00 to 8:30 pm

Refreshments will be served

These forums are an excellent opportunity to comment before the Study concludes!

For more information and to download our existing reports please visit:
www.lowerfarmington.org or www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org



Media Alert
August 6, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Joyce Kennedy Raymes
860.658.4442 x.203/ 860.707.5765 or
Sally Rieger, 860/658-7317

Also see: Photo Attachment with individuals in photo from left to right:
Eric Hammerling/Executive Director Connecticut Forest & Park Assoc., Joyce Kennedy Raymes/ Wild & Scenic (W&S) Study Coordinator, Susan Frechette/ DEP Deputy Commissioner, Rep. Clark Chapin, Rep. Ruth Fahrbach, Rep. Linda Schofield, Rep. Richard Ferrari, Governor Jodi Rell, Josef Treggor/W&S Study Committee-Farmington, Sally Rieger/W&S Study Chair-Simsbury, Will Violette/W&S Intern-Granby, Eileen Fielding/Executive Director Farmington River Watershed Assoc. (FRWA), Sarah Hincks/W&S Study Committee-FRWA, Harry Spring/W&S Study Committee-Avon

Connecticut Supports Wild and Scenic Designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook

On May 7, 2008, H.B. 05143 was signed into law by Governor Jodi Rell. The bill expresses the State of Connecticut's support of a federal Wild and Scenic designation for the lower Farmington River and its tributary, Salmon Brook. The bill also commits the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to "cooperate with all relevant federal, state and local agencies to provide for such designation and to implement any management plan developed in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act." A federal Wild and Scenic designation for the streams would recognize their outstanding resource values, afford them some extra legal protections and provide annual federal funding to be used in the river towns for river-related projects.

Senator Donald J. DeFronzo, Representative Demetrios Giannaros, Representative Richard Ferrari, Representative Dick Roy, and Representative Linda Schofield played key roles in shepherding the bill through the state legislature. Wild and Scenic Study Committee members became regular visitors at the state Capitol as they met with representatives and senators from the ten Wild and Scenic Study towns, Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor. In testimony before the Environment Committee, Sally Rieger, chair of the

Wild and Scenic Study Committee said, "Many people feel, as I do, that it is "their" river, their special place, and want to see it healthy, for themselves, their children and grandchildren and for the citizens of their towns." There were a total of 17 legislators representing all ten towns who expressed their support for the bill, and the bill passed unanimously.

"In our region, the Farmington River has value that is truly priceless. This legislation is the best opportunity imaginable to protect the river and an opportunity that in years to come will be looked back on with great pride. This designation will help sustain our region's quality of life, quality of water, quantity of water, recreational opportunities and biodiversity," said Sarah Hincks, Chair of the Farmington River Watershed Association and representative to the Wild & Scenic Study Committee.

If the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook receive a federal Wild and Scenic designation, they will join the Upper Farmington River and the Eightmile River as Connecticut's only Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Upper Farmington River was designated in 1994 and the Eightmile River was designated in 2008. The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee is currently meeting with town officials and land use boards and commissions to discuss the benefits of the Wild and Scenic designation and to gather local input for an advisory management plan that the Study Committee hopes to complete in draft form late this fall. The Study Committee is also planning three public forums for spring, 2009, and hopes to submit the materials for the Wild and Scenic designation to the U. S. Congress in 2009 or 2010.

If you are interested in learning more about the Wild & Scenic feasibility study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, feel free to contact Study Chair, Sally Rieger at 658-7317 or Study Coordinator, Joyce Kennedy Raymes at 658-4442, extension 203. You can also visit the website established to provide the public with ongoing opportunities to understand and give input to the Wild & Scenic Study, www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org.

<http://www.courant.com/community/news/Ev/hc-ctfarriver0822.artaug22,0,4641833.story>

Hartford (CT) Courant
Friday, August 22, 2008

'Wild And Scenic River'
Support Grows For 'Wild And Scenic River' Effort
By REGINE LABOSSIERE

Courant Staff Writer

A group working to preserve Farmington Valley waterways is getting strong support from area agencies and officials in its quest to place most of the Farmington River under federal protection.

The coalition of public and private organizations is seeking the federal designation "Wild and Scenic River" for 65 miles of the lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook tributary. The designation would ensure annual funding through the National Park Service to support river restoration, environmental education, land protection and other community-based environmental projects. With the designation, the lower region would join 14 miles of the upper Farmington River named wild and scenic in 1994.

But before the waterways can be included, the group of watershed associations, environmental agencies and representatives from 10 Farmington Valley towns must conduct a costly and exhaustive study and present the results to Congress, said Eileen Fielding, executive director of the Farmington River Watershed Association.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee has been pleading its cause and gaining support.

In 2006, the federal government approved the study as well as \$350,000 in grants to be paid out over three to five years. The group came together last year to begin the study and started searching for more aid. In July, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving gave \$156,000 to the Farmington River Watershed Association to help with the study. This month, Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed a bill calling for the commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection to work with federal, state and local agencies to get the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook federally designated.

"That's of great help when ultimately we go before Congress to ask for the designation. Congress really likes to see the state is behind the idea," Fielding said of Rell's action.

The federal money, she said, should be enough to conduct a study on the 65 miles of river that flow through public and private land in Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor. Portions of the river in Windsor and the Collinsville section of Canton are not included because they have dams. Also, the study does not include the Massachusetts section of the river.

"The study budget is adequate, but modest," Fielding said. "What the Hartford Foundation grant has enabled us to do is look more thoroughly at issues."

Those include creating vegetation buffers to decrease storm-water pollution and developing a management plan for the dwarf wedge mussel, an endangered freshwater mussel that lives in a stretch of the river in Avon and Simsbury. The Hartford Foundation's grant is to be paid out over three years.

"We're very interested in projects that improve the quality of life in the region, and taking good care of natural resources is one of the ways to do

that," said Sharon O'Meara, senior program officer at the Hartford Foundation.

With a watershed of 609 square miles, the Farmington River is the most fished river in the state, according to the DEP. It also provides drinking water for more than 600,000 people.

The Farmington River Watershed Association has been working for five years to start the designation process. The nonprofit organization began by getting support from the towns and working with the state's federal representatives to introduce legislative bills, leading to the 2006 approval of the study. Local governments also will benefit from the study, said Joyce Kennedy Raymes, the study coordinator from the National Park Service. She said towns will learn what is living, growing and flowing in their areas and the information can be used for planning, development and educational purposes.

"The towns are really interested in the kinds of things that we'll be learning," Kennedy Raymes said. "It's pretty much a win-win situation."

Contact Régine Labossière at rlabossiere@courant.com

Lower Farmington River Up for Wild and Scenic Status

HARTFORD, Connecticut, May 20, 2008 (ENS) - Governor M. Jodi Rell has signed a bill that seeks to preserve the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as open space under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

"Our goal is to have the federal government designate the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook a Wild and Scenic River," Governor Rell said. "Under this bill, our Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection commissioner will work with federal, state and local agencies to obtain that designation.

The governor said the measure represents a commitment by the state of Connecticut to preserve this section of the river from development projects that pose a threat to the future enjoyment of the river. The legislation takes effect on October 1, 2008.



Part of the Lower Farmington River in its natural state (Photo courtesy [National Park Service](#))

"This is great news for the towns that border the river and all the communities in the Farmington River Region," Governor Rell said. "Our rivers are environmental treasures that provide us with hours of fishing, boating and simple relaxation. We must do everything in our power to preserve them, not only for ourselves, but for future generations."

In 1994, 14 miles of the Upper Farmington River, stretching from Colebrook to Canton, was added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system with an act of Congress.

In the fall of 2003, the Farmington River Watershed Association began an effort to have the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook considered for this distinction.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook run through 10 towns - Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor.

In Congress, the Connecticut delegation began introducing bills authorizing the study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as a Wild and Scenic River in 2004.

Senator Blumenthal introduced a bill that passed the Senate in late 2004. The House passed a companion bill. On November 27, 2004, the bill was signed into law by President George W. Bush.

The state is conducting a feasibility study that involves volunteers from the 10 towns along the river. They will enter into areas of interest, and will work with the National

Park Service to develop a management plan to help protect the outstanding natural, recreational, and/or cultural values of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Meanwhile, according to the state law just passed, the state of Connecticut will not approve any development that could degrade the area and keep it from designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

"This new law is good news for all of those who enjoy the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook," said State Representative Kevin Witkos, a Republican who represents Canton, one of the 10 towns through which these waterways run. "This will ensure that this pristine natural resource will remain a destination for the many anglers, kayakers and others who utilize these waterways."

People enjoy the river and the brook for paddling, hiking at Tunxis State Forest and picnicking at Granbrook Park. Salmon Brook is known for its free flowing water and native brook trout populations. The West Branch of the river is inhabited by trout, river otters and bald eagles.

The state legislation also requires the commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to implement any management plan developed pursuant to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects free-flowing rivers with important scenic, natural, recreational, historic, cultural, or similar values. It designates specific rivers for inclusion and prescribes the methods and standards by which additional rivers may be added.

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Special Designation for Farmington River and Salmon Brook Brings National Recognition



In 1994, 14 miles of the Upper Farmington River – stretching from Colebrook to Canton – were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, which ushered in resources for river protection and funding benefits. In April 2007, local volunteers and organizations formed the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee and began collaborative efforts to bring this National Park Service designation to these waterways.

To be considered “Wild and Scenic” under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river must have at least one outstanding resource value, be it natural, cultural or recreational. Current research projects, funded by the National Park Service and conducted by the Study Committee, have helped establish five areas in which the lower Farmington

River and Salmon Brook meet this standard: geology, water quality, biodiversity, the cultural landscape and recreation.

Achieving the Wild and Scenic designation would help ensure steady funding for local projects to protect and enhance these streams. An advisory management plan, developed by



the Study Committee, would guide these and other river-related conservation efforts. Under the management plan, private landowners would continue to be the primary stewards of their property and towns would continue to be responsible for regulating land use along the river.

Please join us at our upcoming Open House to learn more about what a Wild and Scenic designation means for you and your town.



Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study

749 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

860.658.4442 Ext. 203

www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org

www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org



Farmington River Plan To Be Presented Next Week

- **Topics**
- Museum Dioramas
- Government
- Farmington (Hartford, Connecticut)

[See more topics »](#)

4:08 p.m. EDT, October 20, 2009

EAST GRANBY — - The management plan for designating the rest of the Farmington River as wild and scenic, which qualifies a waterway for federal funding for water management, will be presented at an open house at the **East Granby** Community Center on Oct. 29.

The upper **Farmington** River, which runs from the **Massachusetts** border to the **Canton**-New Hartford line, was designated a wild and scenic area in 1994. In 2007 Congress approved the rest of the river, which runs from Canton to Windsor, for a feasibility study for the same designation.

During the past two years The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee, which consists of representatives of towns along the river, watershed groups and property owners, have prepared a management plan. After response by citizens, this plan will be sent to Congress as part of the process of designating the lower river with wild and scenic status.

The open house, which will include a presentation of the management plan and an opportunity for the public to respond, will run from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Another open house presenting the management plan will be held at the Farmington Public Library on Nov. 5, also from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

— Rinker Buck

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook

Wild and Scenic Study

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2009

CONTACT: Sally Rieger, Wild & Scenic Study Committee Chair @ 860 658 7317 or
Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator @ 860 658 4442 x.203

River Recreation Enhances Local Economy, Real Estate Market, Quality of Life

A recently completed study in ten towns of the lower Farmington watershed shows very strong support for a Wild and Scenic River designation for the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook. The study targeted residents, recreational river users and businesses. The study also showed that these river corridors are heavily used by local residents, adding to local quality of life and to real estate values.

The study was conducted by Dr. Ben Tyson, Dr. James Thorson and David Malia, a graduate student, through the Center for Public Policy and Social Research at Central Connecticut State University, and was funded by the National Park Service. It is part of a larger, comprehensive study coordinated by the Lower Farmington/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee, as a step in the 3- to 5-year process of obtaining National Wild and Scenic River status for these waterways. Its specific purpose was to investigate the "Use and Economic Importance of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook".

Conducted from May through October 2008, the project involved personal interviews, counts of people engaged in recreation at 30 locations along the river and brook, and mailed surveys. Based on the information obtained, the researchers estimate over 124,000 recreational visits to the watercourses or their corridors per year. This estimate was described as "very conservative" because it excludes early morning and evening hours and the months of November through April. Walking or jogging is apparently the most common pursuit along the river. Biking, dog walking, and paddling sports are also common.

About 73% of recreational users who responded strongly agree that the river or brook contributes a lot of beauty to the area, as do about 62% of the residents surveyed. Both groups look to a Wild and Scenic river designation as an "important" or "very important" way to preserve the beauty of the river/brook, to preserve open space and to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Economic Impact

Not surprisingly, the study showed that the amount of money that river recreation brings into the local economy is smaller than that of the Upper Farmington River (which was designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1994). Study Committee Chair Sally Rieger explains, "We know the Upper Farmington draws out-of-state fishermen as well as locals, and they spend on overnight accommodations, food, and fishing-related items. This has an economic significance of about 3.6 million dollars a year, according to a study similar to ours that was released in 2003. The corresponding figure for the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook is between 1.2 and 1.6 million. But," she added, "we need to look

at the effect of the kayakers who come to Tariffville Gorge, which is a significant economic contribution. Study committee members familiar with the Gorge feel its economic impact was underestimated."

Although the economic impact of the river is not as large as the Study Committee had hoped, it still has substantial economic importance. Local proprietor Sue Warner commented, "The vitality of the Farmington River is critical to Collinsville. The Farmington River attracts visitors from all over the state as well as New York and Massachusetts. Collinsville Canoe & Kayak depends on the clean waterway for hundreds of lessons and rentals every season. The town and our business would not thrive without the river."

Studying the relationship of real estate values to the presence of the river suggests that home buyers are willing to pay approximately \$14,000 extra to be a mile closer to the Farmington River/Salmon Brook. The watercourses are clearly amenities for which home buyers are willing to pay.

To be designated as "Wild & Scenic," a river must be shown to have at least one regionally or nationally outstanding resource value (ORV). The Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook far exceed this minimum. Five such values have been identified for the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook: Geology, Water Quality, Biodiversity, the Cultural Landscape and Recreation, and the volunteer Study Committee is currently compiling relevant information about all five. The Committee is comprised of locally appointed representatives from ten Farmington Valley towns, plus the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Salmon Brook Watershed Association, the CT DEP, The Stanley Works, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and the National Park Service.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study is a partnership of town representatives, river organizations, CT DEP, and other river stakeholders who are gathering evidence and developing support for "Wild & Scenic" designation. Partnership "Wild and Scenic" status provides funding for river conservation while keeping river management in the hands of town governments. Local support for designation would help ensure the protection and enhancement of this local treasure for generations to come. Please visit our websites for more information: www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org or www.salmonbrookwildandscenic.org or call Sally Rieger, Wild & Scenic Study Committee Chair @ 860 658 7317 or Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator @ 860 658 4442 x.203

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook

Wild and Scenic Study

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2009

CONTACT: Sally Rieger, Wild & Scenic Study Committee Chair @ 860 658 7317 or
Joyce Kennedy Raymes, Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator @ 860 658 4442
x.203

Wild & Scenic Study Committee Announces a Series of Community Forums

The Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study committee invites you to any one of three Community Open Houses to be held this fall. The Open Houses will offer:

- information on the benefits of a Wild & Scenic designation
- a look at the special natural and cultural resources of the Wild & Scenic Study Area
- copies of the draft Management Plan
- the opportunity to have input into the advisory Management Plan for protecting those resources
- a chance to talk with the community volunteers who make up the Study Committee and to ask any questions you may have.

Please join the Study Committee on one of the following dates in a town nearby:

- **October 15 at the Canton Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue**
- **October 29 at the East Granby Community Center, 9 Center Street**
- **November 5 at the Farmington Public Library, 6 Monteith Drive**

All Open Houses are scheduled from 5:00PM to 8:30PM. Refreshments will be served.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study brings together town representatives from Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor, river organizations, CT DEP, and other river stakeholders, who are gathering evidence and developing support for National Park Service designation of the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook as "Wild & Scenic". The "Wild & Scenic" designation recognizes the outstanding resource values of the very best rivers in the United States. Under the New England Partnership model, "Wild & Scenic" status provides funding for river management while leaving river management in the hands of town governments. Your support of the Study and the designation helps ensure the protection and enhancement of this local treasure for our communities now and for generations to come.

What Does Partnership Wild & Scenic Mean?

A Partnership Wild & Scenic Designation Would Not:

- **Change land use regulations along the river.** Our ten towns would retain control of local land use along the river and brook. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act does not authorize the federal government to enact land use regulations for private lands along a designated river
- **Deprive landowners of their land.** The Partnership Wild & Scenic program was designed to respect private land ownership in the Northeast. When a river receives a Partnership Wild & Scenic River designation, the federal government actually loses its existing right to condemn land in the corridor. Nor can landowners be forced to sell their property.
- **Prevent recreational uses of the river such as fishing and paddling.** There is nothing in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act that requires a change in **fishing regulations**. The State of Connecticut will continue to be the regulatory authority. A benefit of a Wild & Scenic designation is that with the designation, some annual National Park Service funding that could be used to improve fish passage on the river. In regard to **paddling** and canoeing, the situation is similar. Because one of the ORVs for the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook is Recreation, National Park Service funding associated with a Wild & Scenic designation could be used to improve river access points for paddlers
- **Prevent Canton, Avon and Burlington from using their dams for hydropower.** Although the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act requires that designated rivers be free-flowing, segments of a river can be excluded from a Wild & Scenic designation. The lower Farmington already has an operating hydropower facility at Rainbow Dam in Windsor and that will be excluded from the designation.
- **Require funding from the town.** Towns don't pay anything for the Wild & Scenic Study or for the designation. If the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are designated Wild & Scenic, we can expect annual funding from the National Park Service that could be spent on a wide variety of local river-related projects.
- **Prevent the town from doing necessary projects near the river, such as bridge replacement.** If the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are designated Wild & Scenic, water resource projects that alter the flow of the river, or that are Federally funded, licensed or permitted would need to be reviewed by the National Park Service. The National Park Service would suggest changes to the project if the project were found to interfere with the flow of the river. Because the proposed bridge on Avon Old Farms Road was a concern to the Town of Avon, the National Park service reviewed the project and sent a letter to the town saying that the new bridge would be an improvement from the River's standpoint.
- **Impose new water quality standards on towns.** The Department of Environmental Protection in Connecticut currently enforces Federal Clean Water Act standards which include a "no degradation" requirement. The Farmington River is already held to a high standard by the DEP. The Study Committee has obtained a letter from the DEP stating that higher water quality standards would not result from a Wild & Scenic designation.

LAND USE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

LAND
USE
LEADERSHIP
ALLIANCE



Participant List

TOWN OF AVON

John E. McCahill
Representing: Town of Avon
Position: Planning & Community Development Specialist
60 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001
Work: (860) 409-4328
Fax: (860) 409-4375
Email: jmccahill@town.avon.ct.us

Henry Spring
Representing: Town of Avon
Position: Delegate Wild & Scenic Study; formerly Wetlands & Natural Resources Commission Member; Hartford CACIWC
41 Chidsey Road
Avon, CT 06001
Home: (860) 677-2733
Email: henryspring@comcast.net

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

Diane Mack
Representing: Town of Bloomfield
Position: Conservation, Energy and Environment Commission Member
10 Duncaster Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Work: (860) 562-2400
Fax: (860) 562-6070
Home: (860) 242-4832
Email: dianemack@comcast.net

TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Dwight C. Harris
Representing: Town of Burlington
Position: Developer and Farmer
P.O. Box 1430
Burlington, CT 06013
Work: (860) 675-7345
Fax: (860) 672-3754
Home: (860) 404-0720
Email: dwightdch@aol.com

Richard Miller
Representing: Town of Burlington
Position: Selectman
11 Cricket Lane
Burlington, CT 06013
Work: (860) 673-5511
Home: (860) 673-6016

Paul J. Rochford
Representing: Town of Burlington
Position: Land Trust President
34 Taine Mountain Road
Burlington, CT 06013
Work: (860) 276-7134
Home: (860) 675-6215
Email: ueFa@comcast.net

TOWN OF CANTON

Richard E. Narows
Representing: Town of Canton
Position: Zoning Board Member
527 Cherry Brook Road
North Canton, CT 06027
Work: (860) 693-4271
Home: (860) 693-2323
Email: rnarowski@cantonct.org

Neil Pade
Representing: Town of Canton
Position: Director, Planning & Community Development
4 Market Street
Collinsville, CT 06019
Work: (860) 693-7891
Fax: (860) 693-7884
Email: npade@townofcantonct.org

TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

Gary M. Haynes, CZEO
Representing: Town of East Granby
Position: Director of Community Development
9 Center Street
PO Box 1858
East Granby, CT 06026
Work: (860) 653-3444
Fax: (860) 653-4017
Email: GaryH@egtownhall.com

David W. Holl
Representing: Town of East Granby
Position: Commissioner, Economic Development Commission
14 Rolling Green
Granby, CT 06035
Home: (860) 653-5481
Email: d.holl@sbcglobal.net

Thomas F. Howard
Representing: Town of East Granby
Position: Land Trust Leader
59 Old County Road
East Granby, CT 06035
Home: (860) 658-0232
Fax: (860) 658-0523
Email: thomas.f.howard@snet.net

John T. Rusnock
Representing: Town of East Granby
Position: Inland Wetlands Commission Member
7 Tuckahoe Road
East Granby, CT 06026
Home: (860) 653-2194
Email: johnrusnock@sbcglobal.net

Participant List

TOWN OF FARMINGTON

Russell M. Arnold, Jr., P.E.
Representing: Town of Farmington
Position: Director of Public Works/Town Engineer
1 Monteith Drive
Farmington, CT 06032
Work: (860) 675-2305
Fax: (860) 675-2319
Home: (860) 673-3723
Email: arnoldr@farmington-ct.org

Elizabeth S. Dolphin
Representing: Town of Farmington
Position: Assistant Town Planner
1 Monteith Drive
Farmington, CT 06032
Work: (860) 675-2325
Fax: (860) 675-2319
Home: (860) 673-0245
Email: dolphine@farmington-ct.org

Walter L. Sargent
Representing: Town of Farmington
Position: Executive Director, Farmington Land Trust Inc.
45 Northwoods Road
Farmington, CT 06032
Work: (860) 674-8545
Home: (860) 673-4361

John Vibert
Representing: Town of Farmington
Position: Land Committee Member
126 Main Street
Unionville, CT 06085
Home: (860) 675-7007
Email: johnvibert@aol.com

TOWN OF GRANBY

William R. Bentley
Representing: Town of Granby
Position: Volunteer
P.O. Box 149
329 North Granby Road
North Granby, CT 06060
Home: (860) 844-0008
Email: billbentley@cox.net

Participant List

Linda Spevacek

Representing: Town of Granby
Position: Planning and Zoning Commission Member
24 Holcomb Ridge Road
West Granby, CT 06090
Work: (860) 844-8555
Home: (860) 653-3903
Email: linda@avisioigroup.com

David W. Tolti

Representing: Town of Granby
Position: Chairperson, Inlands Wetlands Commission
72 Buttles Road
Granby, CT 06035
Home: (860) 653-3311
Email: dantolli@yahoo.com

Ann Wilhelm

Representing: Town of Granby
Position: Volunteer
P.O. Box 149
329 North Granby Road
North Granby, CT 06060
Home: (860) 844-0008
annwilhelm@cox.net

TOWN OF HARTLAND**Gail DiMaggio**

Representing: Town of Hartland
Position: Land Trust
294 Center Street
West Hartland, CT 06091

Fred W. Jones

Representing: Town of Hartland
Position: President Hartland Land Trust and Farmington River W&S Coordinating Committee Repre
224 Old Forge Rd
Riverton, CT 06040
Home: (860) 379-
Email: froghollow

Susan Murray

Representing: Town of Hartland
Position: Land Trust Director, Lower Wild & Scenic Representative
106 Peck Orchard Road
East Hartland, CT 06027
Home: (860) 653-5345
Work: (860) 527-3092 x119
Fax: (860) 527-6047
Email: suemur@sbcglobal.net

TOWN OF SIMSBURY**Lynn Charest**

Representing: Town of Simsbury
Position: Conservation / Inland Wetlands Zoning Compliance Officer
933 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dennis J. Fallon

Representing: Town of Simsbury
Position: Board of Assessment Appeals
1 High Hill Circle
Weatogue, CT 06089
Work: (860) 658-1765
Fax: (860) 658-1765
Home: (860) 658-4110
Email: dfallon167@comcast.net

Eileen Fielding

Representing: Farmington River Watershed Association
Position: Executive Director
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

John K. Hampton

Representing: Town of Simsbury
Position: Deputy First Selectman
Deputy First Selectman
Town of Simsbury

Participant List

Aimee Petras

Position: Outreach Coordinator & Education Coordinator, Farmington River Watershed Association
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
Home: (203) 246-3448
Work: (860) 658-4442
Fax: (860) 651-7519
Email: apetras@frwa.org

Joyce Kennedy Raymes

Representing: Town of Simsbury
Position: Study Coordinator
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Donald F. Rieger

Representing: Town of Simsbury
Position: Conservation Commission Member (Alternate)
9 Stodmor Road
Simsbury, CT 06070
Home: (860) 658-7317
Email: dfrandssr@aol.com

Sally Rieger

Representing: Town of Simsbury
Position: Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

TOWN OF WINDSOR**Lauren Good**

Representing: Town of Windsor
Position: Assistant Town Planner
275 Broad Street
Windsor, CT 06095
Work: (860) 285-1982
Fax: (860) 285-1809
Home: (860) 461-3938
Email: good@townofwindsorct.com

Jim Simon

Representing: Town of Windsor
Position: Wetlands/Waterways Commissioner
210 Woodcarver
Windsor, CT 06095
Home: (860) 688-1889
Email: djsimon@snet.net

Terry Langevin

Representing: Windsor
Position: Friends of Northwest Park
209 Ethan Drive
Windsor, CT 06095
Home: (860) 298-9873
Fax: (860) 298-9873
Email: dcmtbl@comcast.net

MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE EXAMPLES

2008 Wild & Scenic Study Committee Calendar of Events

	Need Date/Seasonal	April	May	June	July	August
Avon		Environmental Fair-Thompson Brook School (5/18)				
Bloomfield	Drumming Event ?		<i>Diane</i>	ALT-Trails Day (6/8)		
	Farmers Market		Prosser Library book Sale (5/17)	<i>Harry</i>		
	Wintonbury Historical Society Sale					
Burlington				Johnny Cake Mt. Festival/Trails Day		
				<i>Paul Tom</i> (6/7)		
Canton						
	Collinsville Farmers Market					
	Roaring Brook Nature Center					
	CCK Events					
East Granby				150th Anniversary Celebration (6/6-8)		
				Mike, Ian		
Farmington		Farmington Clean-up Day/Garden Club (4/26)				
		Farmington LT Annual Mtg (4/17) <i>Joe/Walt</i>				
Granby	Holcomb Farm Events	SBWA Annual Meeting (4/10)	Memorial Day Parade (5/26)			G
	<i>Eric L.</i>	<i>Joyce</i>	<i>Carolyn</i>			
Hartland			Holcomb Farm Spring Festival (6/4)	HLT Annual meeting (6/2)		Firemans Carnival (7/30-8/2)
			<i>Sally</i>			Sue/Kathy
Simsbury	Learn to Row Day(FRRA)	W&S Event at River View (4/26)	Open House WPCF (5/10)	Eggstock (6/7)		
		<i>Sally, Joyce & others?</i>	<i>Sally, Joyce</i>	Field Notes (6/16)		
	Hublein Tower	Linda's Litter Lugging Day (4/12)		Chris Murphy Hike (6/8)		
		<i>Sally</i>		Simsbury Farmers Market (6/26)		
Tariffville		SLT Annual Dinner		Scenic River Day (6/28)		
Windsor		Simsbury Green Summit (4/22)	Shad Derby Festival (5/17)	Rainbow Fish Ladder Day (6/7)		
				<i>Kurt</i>		
	175th Anniversary					
	Fall Arts Fest					
	Columbus Day Chili Festival					
All Towns- Misc.				CT Trails Day (6/7)		
	Land Trust Events					
	Historical Society Events			Water Trails Celebration Day (6/14)		

Town Meetings Schedule

	Town Meetings		
	Town CEO	Board of Selectmen	More Meetings
		Town Council	
Avon		5/1/08 Town Council, Boards Invited	
		Harry, Jamie, Sally, Diane	
Bloomfield		1/15/08 Town council, TPZ, Wetlands	
	Kevin, Paula	Paula, Kevin, Sally, Joyce, Jamie	
Burlington	5/15/08 Kathy Zabel	5/27/08 Board of Selectmen	
	Paul, Sarah, Sally, Joyce	Paul, Sarah, Sally, Joyce	
Canton	3/20/08 Dick Barlow, Neil Pade	6/18/08BOS	3/19/09P&Z, CC and Wetlands
	David L., Sally	David, Joyce, Sally, Jamie	Sally, david, Cynthia, Joyce
East Granby	5/13/08 Jim Hayden, Gary Haynes	7/22/08 BOS	
	Ian, Mike, Sally, Joyce	Ian, Mike, Joyce	
Farmington	3/25/08 Kathy Eagen, Liz Dolphin	8/5/08 Town Council	
	Walter, Joyce, Sally, Eric, Larry		
Granby		4/21/08 Selectmen, all boards invited	
		Eric L., Carolyn, Harry, Joyce	
Hartland		11/10/08 all boards invited	
		Sue, Joyce, Kathy, Sally, Eileen?	
Simsbury	3/7/08 Mary Glassman	6/23/2008 Selectmen	CC 11/18/08
	Joyce, Sally, Margery	Sally, Eileen, Margery	Margery, Joyce
Windsor	6/2/08 Peter Sousa	8/4/08 Town Council	NW Park Annual Mtg
	Betsy, Terry, Frank, Sally, Joyce	Frank, Betsy, Terry, Sally, Joyce, Jamie	Terry
Farmington Valley Collaborative	6/19/08		
Meetings Complete			



Lower Farmington/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study
C/o FRWA
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
860 658 4442
<http://www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org/>

