



March 25, 2025

# Conducting Watershed Surveys

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- Welcome to our biannual Watershed Inspector Training.
- Thank you for attending and for the work that you do. It is the first line of defense in protecting our drinking water sources.
- Please continue to develop and maintain partnerships as part of your comprehensive watershed survey program – municipalities, local health departments, state and federal agencies.

## Training Contact Hours

- A well-trained, committed and ethical operator workforce, working to assure regulatory compliance, is essential for the security and safety of our public water supplies.
- As watershed inspector and water operator knowledge increases so too does public health protection.
- Expectations – pay attention, phones on vibrate, please step out if you have to take a call
- Certificates will be issued at the end of today's course
- Issued only to those who have signed the roster - course is approved for 4 TCHs – applicable to all certification types,
- Issued only to those who attend entire course (sign in morning and afternoon)

## Today's Agenda

- Responsible for Implementation & Enforcement of the **Safe Drinking Water Act** and related state drinking water laws
- Regulate 2,550 Public Water Systems (PWS)
- 2.8 million CT residents served – 3.5 million total population
- 150 reservoir systems, over 4,000 ground water sources

Why are we all here today?



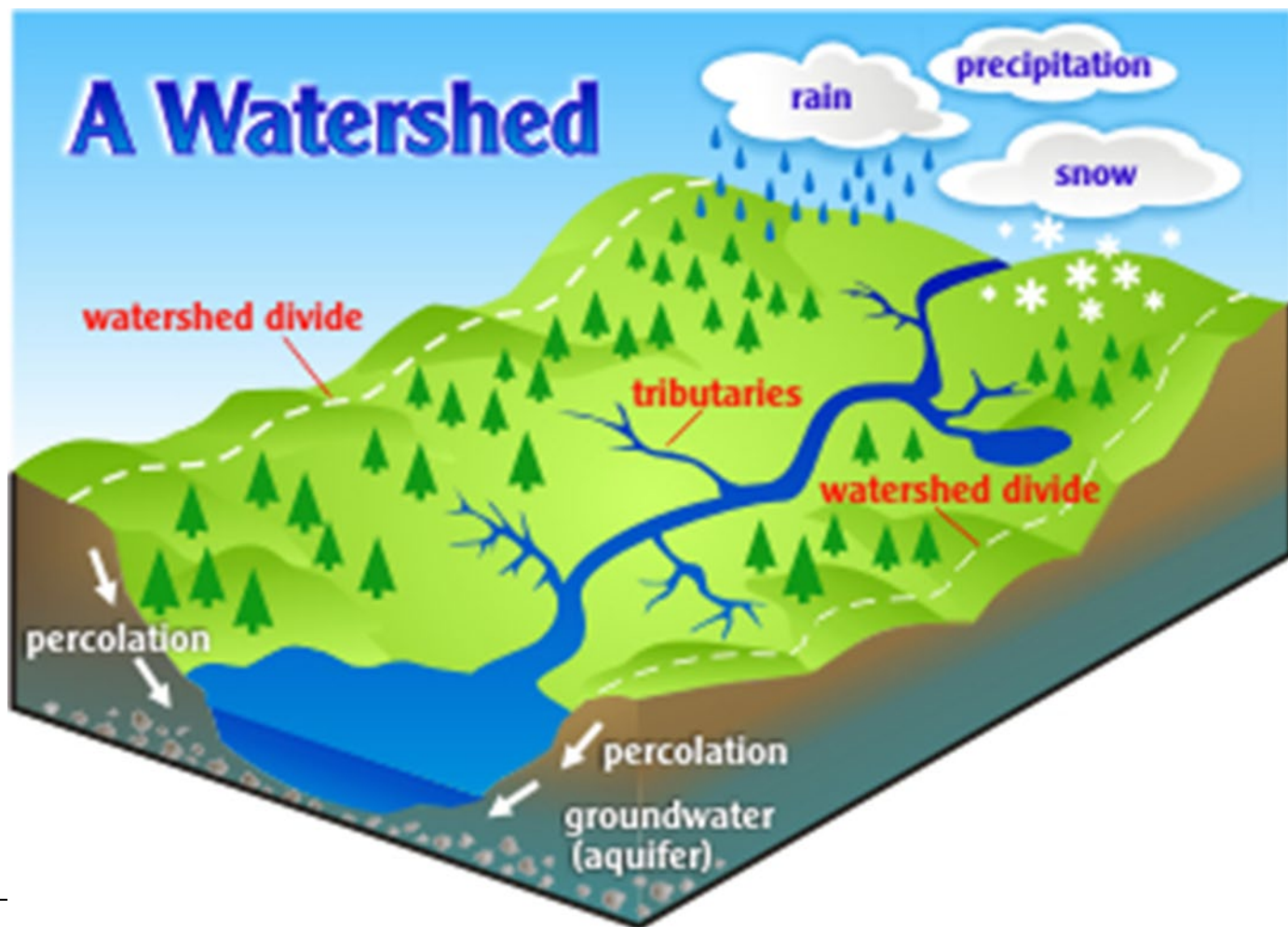
# Multi-Barrier Approach to Drinking Water Quality

The following steps are an important part of the multi-barrier approach:

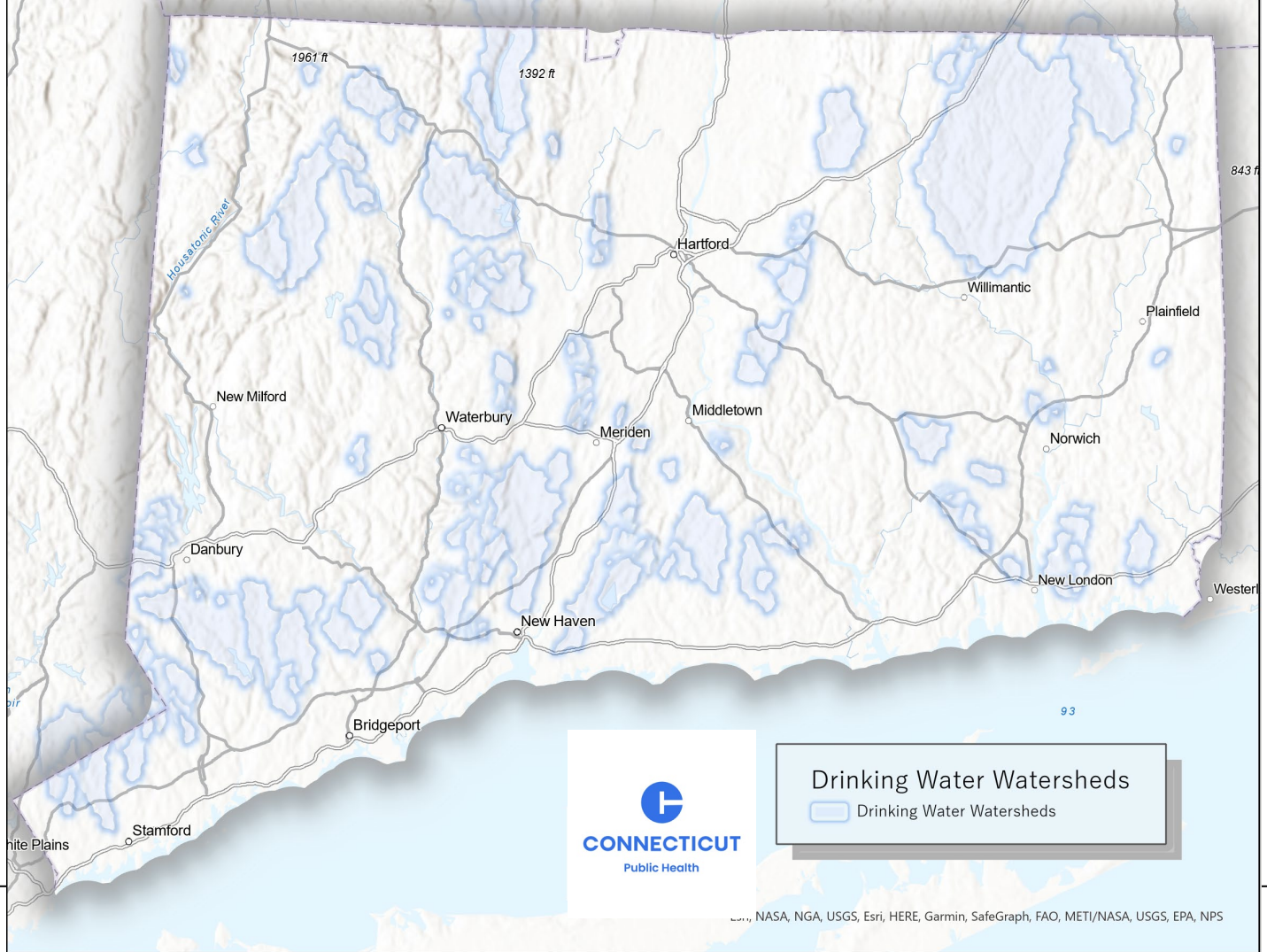
- Selecting the best available drinking water source;
- **Protecting the drinking water source from contamination;**
- Using effective water treatment; and
- Preventing water quality deterioration in the water distribution system.

## Watershed Inspections = Source Protection

- Goal: Protect and Preserve our drinking water
- Watershed inspections are an ongoing effort - the report captures the previous year's work.
- Recommend broadly consider all things that may impact your water supply and drinking water quality
- Benefit: Minimize treatment, infrastructure and O&M costs, save money and improve public health protection



## Drinking Water Watersheds





# Regulatory Basis for Watershed Surveys

- Watershed survey. A public water system using surface water as an active source of supply shall make a sanitary survey of the watershed to the intake at least annually. A report on the survey shall be submitted to the Department by March 1 each year covering the preceding calendar year.

- Applies to land and watercourses tributary to a public water supply including surface and groundwater sources:
- Prohibits:
  - accumulation of animal wastes
  - sewage discharges
  - disposal of toxic metals, gasoline, oils & pesticides
- Regulates:
  - stormwater drainage facilities
  - road salt
  - fertilizer applications

**Sec. 25-51. Injunction against injury to water supply or source.** Whenever any land or building is used, occupied or allowed to remain in a condition such that it is or could be a source of pollution to any public water supply reservoir or associated watershed, including, but not limited to, any watercourse, wetland or drainage system from which water flows to a public water supply reservoir or any public water supply well or associated aquifer protection area, as defined in section [22a-354h](#), the municipality or water company, as defined in section [25-32a](#), having charge of such reservoir or well, or the local director of health or the local director's agents, may apply for relief to the superior court for the judicial district wherein such reservoir, watershed, well or aquifer protection area is located, and said court may make any order in the premises, temporary or permanent, which, in its judgment, may be necessary to preserve the purity of such water. **The municipality or water company, by its officers or agents duly appointed,** or the local director of health, or the local director's agents **may, at all reasonable times, enter upon and inspect any premises within the watershed** tributary to, or aquifer protection area of, such water supply and, if any nuisance likely to pollute such water is found therein, the local director of health or the local director's agent may abate such nuisance after reasonable notice to the owners or occupants of such premises and their refusal or neglect to abate the same, and the municipality or water company shall be liable for all unnecessary or unreasonable damage done to such premises.



## Preparation for the Survey

## Before the Watershed Survey

- IMPORTANT: Notify in advance
- IMPORTANT: Provide a means to verify identity/authenticity
- IMPORTANT: Vehicle, Identification, Uniform
- Consider: Social media, same staff as previous years

# Press Release: MDC Annual Watershed Inspections to Begin

March 7, 2025

## **MDC ANNUAL WATERSHED INSPECTIONS TO BEGIN**

*Property inspections to begin in the towns of Barkhamsted, Hartland, New Hartford, Burlington, Canton, Harwinton, Torrington, Winsted, Avon, Simsbury, Bloomfield and West Hartford*

For Immediate Release

[Download CT Press Release PDF](#)

[Download MA Press Release PDF](#)

**(HARTFORD, CT)** – The Metropolitan District (MDC) will be conducting its state-mandated annual watershed sanitary survey and inspection program beginning this month. The purpose of the program, which will continue through November, is to prevent contamination of the MDC's drinking water supplies as a result of septic system failure, erosion, runoff, and other potential pollutants.

Routine watershed sanitary surveys are required by Section 19-13-B102 (b) of the Connecticut Public Health Code.

Property inspections will take place in the towns of Barkhamsted and Hartland on the Barkhamsted Reservoir watershed; in New Hartford, Burlington, Canton, Harwinton, Torrington and Winsted on the Nepaug Reservoir watershed; and in the towns of Avon, Simsbury, Bloomfield and West Hartford on the West Hartford and Reservoir No. 6 watersheds.

# Watershed Inspection



## Watershed Inspection & Drinking Water Quality

The Watershed Inspection is a review of the individual properties that are located within the watershed boundaries. A watershed is defined, by topography, as the area of land that drains to one body of water. The rain and snow that falls on watershed land in Ledyard and Groton become the water that feeds local streams, brooks, and reservoirs. From the reservoirs, water is treated at Groton Utilities Water Treatment Plant and then distributed to customers as drinking water.

Connecticut Public Health Code requires water supply companies to conduct Watershed Inspections annually as a way to protect water quality and prevent pollution of drinking water at its source.

## How Watershed Inspection Works

At the start of the yearly inspections, Groton Utilities sends a letter to known property owners in the watershed. This letter provides residents with the timeframe of the inspections. Groton Utilities Watershed Staff then visit properties in the watershed. The brief inspections focus on the exterior of the property - Watershed Staff do not enter homes. Residents are welcome to be present for the inspection. The inspection focuses on aspects that have the potential for pollution including the function of septic systems, onsite tanks and wells, use of fertilizer and pesticides, and waste disposal among other things.

For businesses and sites with other uses Watershed Staff have a brief questionnaire that addresses hazardous materials, tanks, manure management, emergency spill plans, and other items.

## If There Is a Problem

If a problem is discovered in the course of the inspection, the property owner will be notified in writing with recommendations and given reasonable time to correct the issues.

Watershed Staff utilize a Groton Utilities vehicle, carry identification, and will be in uniform. If you have any questions please contact Groton Utilities Water Division by phone at 860-446-4022.

Watershed Inspections begin in July and continue throughout the summer.

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## Additional Information

- [Living in a Public Water Supply Watershed](#)

## How Watershed Inspection Works

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**6**

 Select Language

Google Translate

# Utility Imposters

The RWA urges all residents, especially those who are home during the day, to be alert for imposters trying to gain access to your home. Here are some ways to protect yourself from utility imposters:

- RWA employees typically only knock on doors to alert residents of an emergency or major project. When an employee asks to go inside a home, the resident typically called us to initiate or schedule service.
- Be wary of anyone who tries to collect money or offers to test your water.
- All of our employees whose jobs involve visiting homes and businesses wear clothing with the RWA logo and drive a clearly marked vehicle. Look for the logo, and always ask to see the person's RWA photo identification card.
- If you have any doubt about the individual's identity or motives, or the authenticity of their credentials, maintain a "No Identification – No Entry" policy. Do not allow them into your home, and call the police.
- If you want to confirm an RWA employee's identity, call us at [203-562-4020](tel:203-562-4020).

## → Related Info

[AARP Scam Alert >](#)

[FTC Consumer Information on Scams >](#)

[Utilities United Against Scams >](#)





# Conducting the Survey

- No properties should be excluded from consideration: residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, open/protected space, municipal, yours (water company land)
- **PARTNERSHIPS** - maintain relationships with partners to address shared problems
- Know your watershed(s)
- Maintain an inventory of historical concerns/repeat offenders

## Conducting The Inspection

- Start with: septic systems, fuel storage, chemical storage, pesticide/fertilizer storage, erosion, runoff, animals, dumping
  - Today's presentations and the Watershed Inspector Guidance will provide specific guidance on these topics
- More frequent visits to problem areas
- Don't rely solely on last year's list
- Use technology to your advantage

## Other Potential Issues

- Encroachment is an issue for MANY public water systems. Know which properties abut yours, and make note of any encroachments for future enforcement.
- When inspecting your own water company land, state parks, town open space – look for unauthorized use, including dumping, ATV use, etc. and utilize partnerships for enforcement
- Invasive Plants
- Cyanobacteria
- Stormwater



# Tools



## WATERSHED INSPECTION GUIDELINES

Prepared by the  
Source Water Protection Committee  
of the Connecticut Section of the  
American Water Works  
Association  
2022

Protecting drinking water supplies from contamination is an essential concern for all public drinking water suppliers in the state of Connecticut. Watershed inspections are a vital aspect of a comprehensive source water protection program, which should also include the review of proposed development projects, land use and zoning changes, monitoring of active construction sites and other sites with amplified potential for pollution, and collaborative efforts with municipal and state regulators to mitigate pollution sources that are discovered.

[https://ctawwa.starchapter.com/images/Watershed\\_Inspection\\_Guidelines\\_2022\\_1\\_.pdf](https://ctawwa.starchapter.com/images/Watershed_Inspection_Guidelines_2022_1_.pdf)

- Consider Geographic Information System (GIS) tools for planning and tracking :
  - Watershed (DPH map service)
  - Sewer/septic (DEEP Sewer map service, DPH Private well map service)
  - Zoning (Online at Municipal websites, local POCD)
  - COGs (Councils of Government) often have good information
  - Previous inspections/problems (Survey123?)
  - Parcels (OPM now offers a statewide mapping service –CT Open Data)
  - Other Data (DPH, DEEP, Municipal, etc.)

# 2023 Aerial Imagery & Elevation

Statewide, 3 inch, 4 band orthoimagery AND statewide Quality Level 1 lidar (minimum of 15 points per square meter inland a minimum of 20 points per square meter along the coast) was collected in the spring of 2023. The project was managed by the [CT State GIS Office](#) with the Aerial Imagery Acquisition Workgroup. See [Funding and Project Management](#) below for more information.

- Easy
- Recent
- Free
- Helpful when property access is difficult



## 2023 Aerial Imagery

### VIEW

#### Aerial Imagery Viewer

The 2023 imagery is part of the online, interactive viewer that contains all of Connecticut's statewide, digital aerial imagery.  
> [Aerial Imagery Viewer Help](#)

### CONNECT

#### Image Services

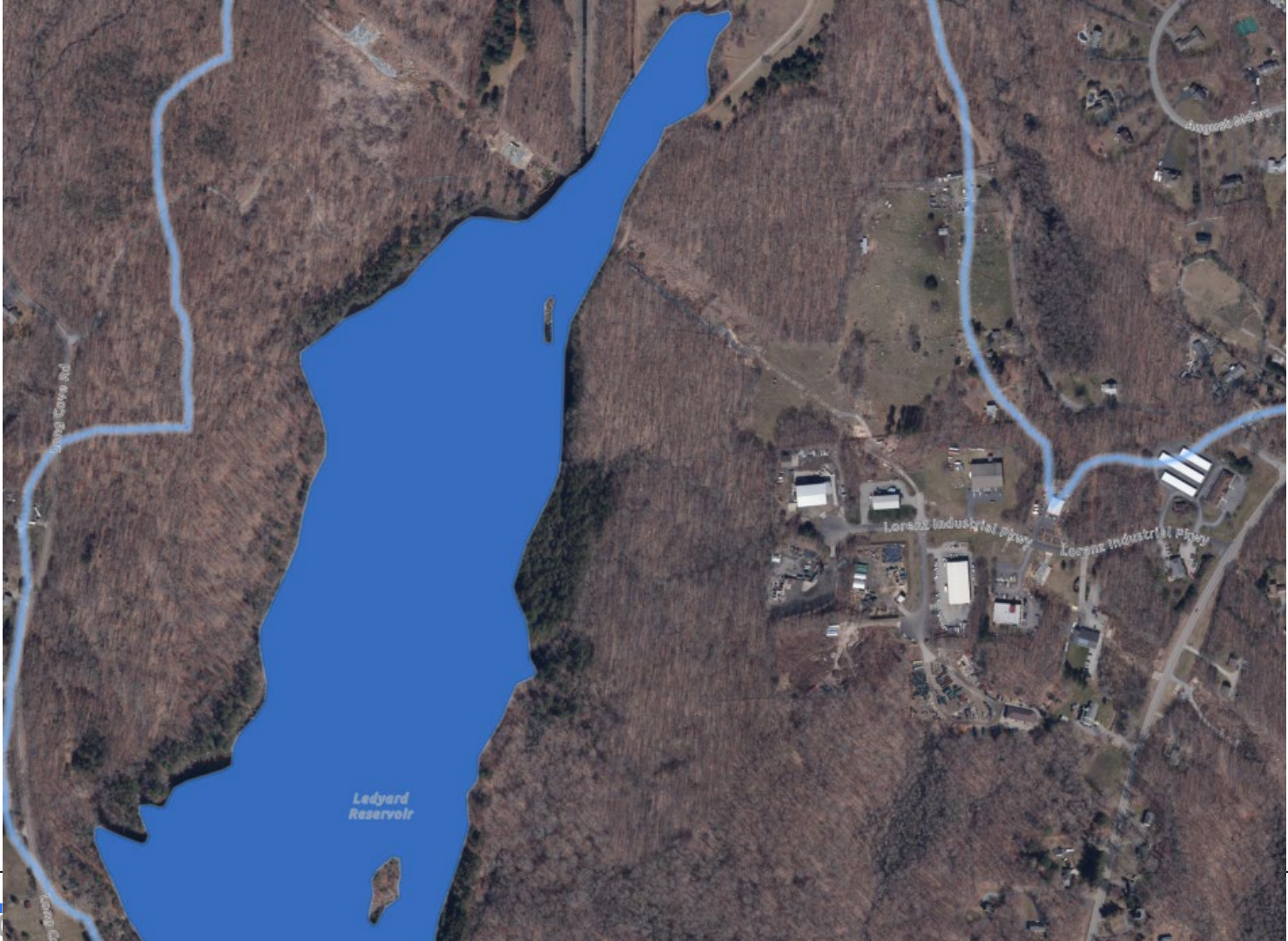
*for advanced users*  
On the [Map and Image Services page](#), look for **Imagery-Spring Statewide** and then **2023 Spring 4 band, 3 inch**. Both a dynamic service and tiled service are available.  
> [How to Connect to Services](#)  
> [Service FAQs](#)

### DOWNLOAD

#### Download

*for GIS users*  
[Download](#) aerial imagery tiles as GeoTIFF tile, MrSID Generation 3, or MrSID Generation 4. Town mosaics are available as MrSID Generation 3 and MrSID Generation 4.

[2023 Aerial Imagery & Elevation | Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online](#)







## **Ranks all Parcels in Connecticut's source water areas on their value in protecting drinking water**

- Assist water utilities in watershed surveys, land acquisition
- Assist municipalities in making smart land use decisions
- Identify most effective use of funding for acquisitions, easements, remediation projects

[Projects & Research](#) / Source Water Protection Project

# Source Water Protection Project

[Project Home](#)[Methods & Metrics](#)[Map Viewer & Dashboard](#)[Viewer and Dashboard Help](#)

The project systematically and objectively identifies parcels with the most value for source water protection. It uses a GIS inventory of all parcels (properties) occurring either in a surface water protection area (drinking water watersheds) or ground water protection area (aquifer protection areas). Discussion and expert opinion defined a thorough yet reasonable set of metrics for parcels existing in drinking water watersheds and a second list for parcels existing over aquifer protection areas. The metrics were then combined and so each parcel has a rank score identifying those that are most valuable for source water protection.

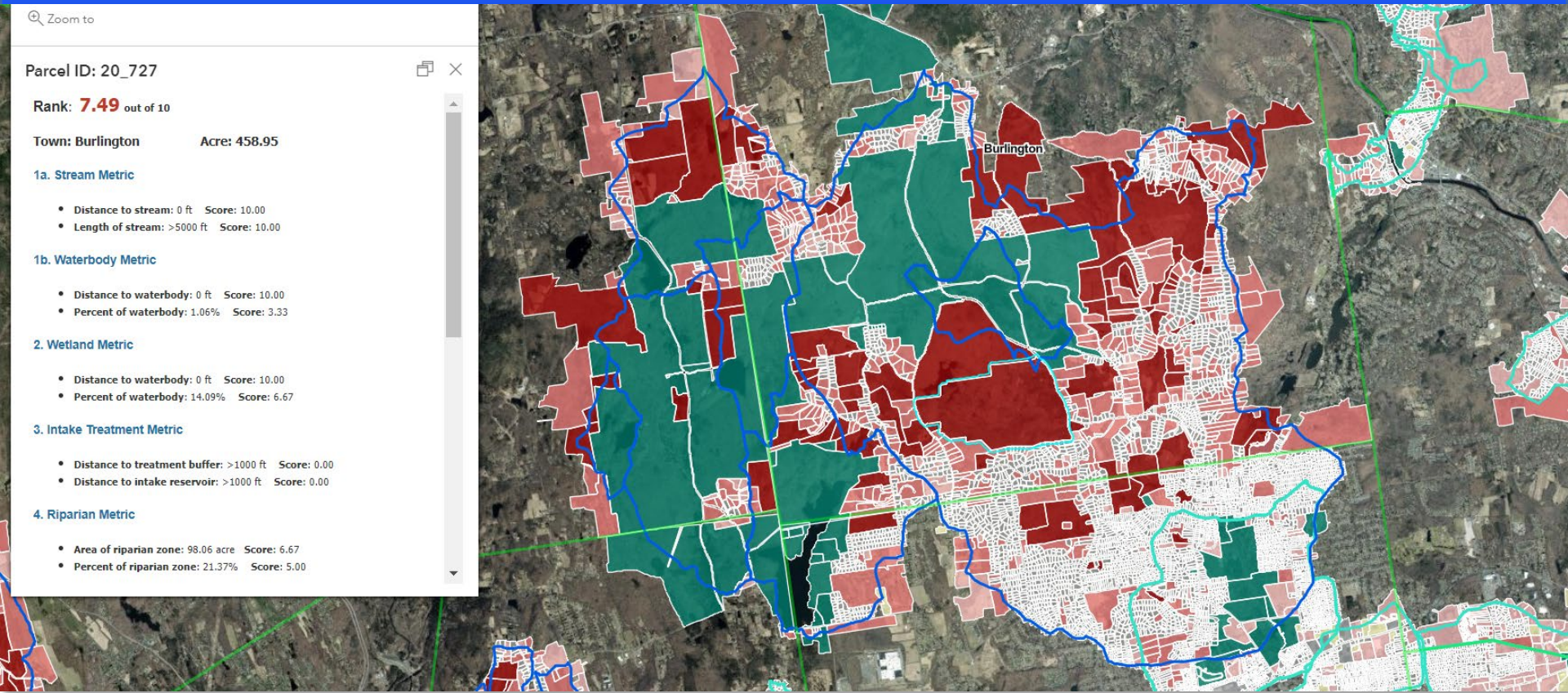
**Parcel Prioritization Viewer**  
view and explore metric  
values and map layers

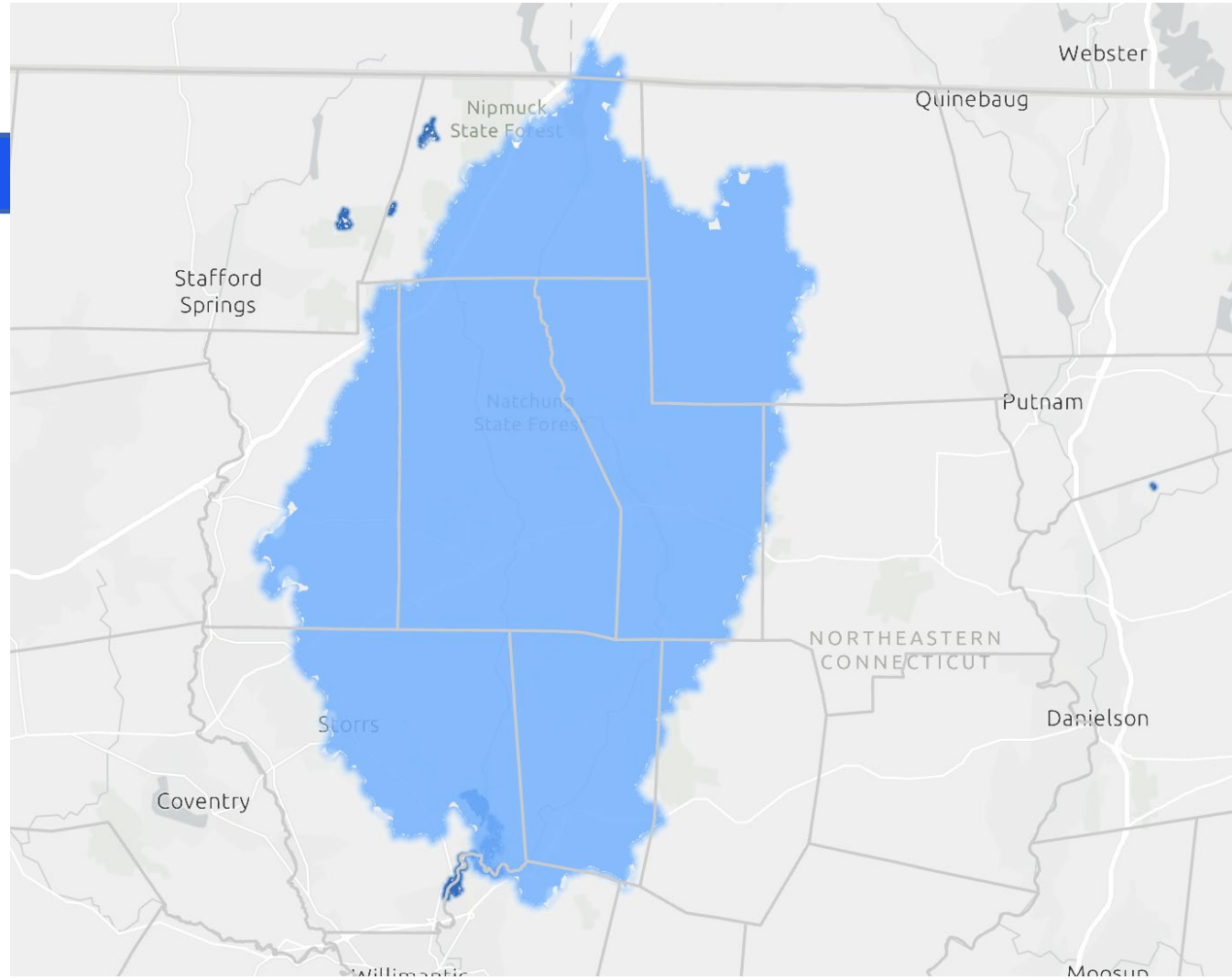
**Parcel Priority Dashboard**  
find parcels with desired  
criteria, such as high rank

**Methods and Metrics**  
project methods, metric  
definitions, and more

**Help and How-to**  
for the **Map Viewer and**  
**Dashboard**

# Source Water Protection Map Viewer





## Parcel Prioritization Viewer

### Parcel Information

Parcel ID: 3\_503

Town: Ashford

Acre: 134.32

This parcel is located in a drinking water watershed.

Surface Water Rank (scaled\*): **8.47** out of 10 (actual rank:7.00)

\*values stretched to a range of 0-10, see help for more info

### Surface Water Metrics

#### • Stream Metric

Distance to Stream: 0.00 ft Score: 10.00

Length of Stream: 2787.08 ft Score: 6.67

#### • Waterbody Metric

Distance to Waterbody: >500 ft Score: 0.00

Percent of Waterbody: 0.00 % Score: 0.00

#### • Wetland Metric

Distance to Wetland: 0 ft Score: 10.00

Percent of Wetland: 26.11 % Score: 10.00

#### • Treatment Intake Metric

Distance to Treatment Plant Intake Buffer: >1000 ft Score: 0.00

Distance to Intake Reservoir: >1000 ft Score: 0.00

#### • Riparian Metric

Area of Riparian Zone: 20.04 acre Score: 6.67

Percent of Riparian Zone: 14.92 % Score: 2.5

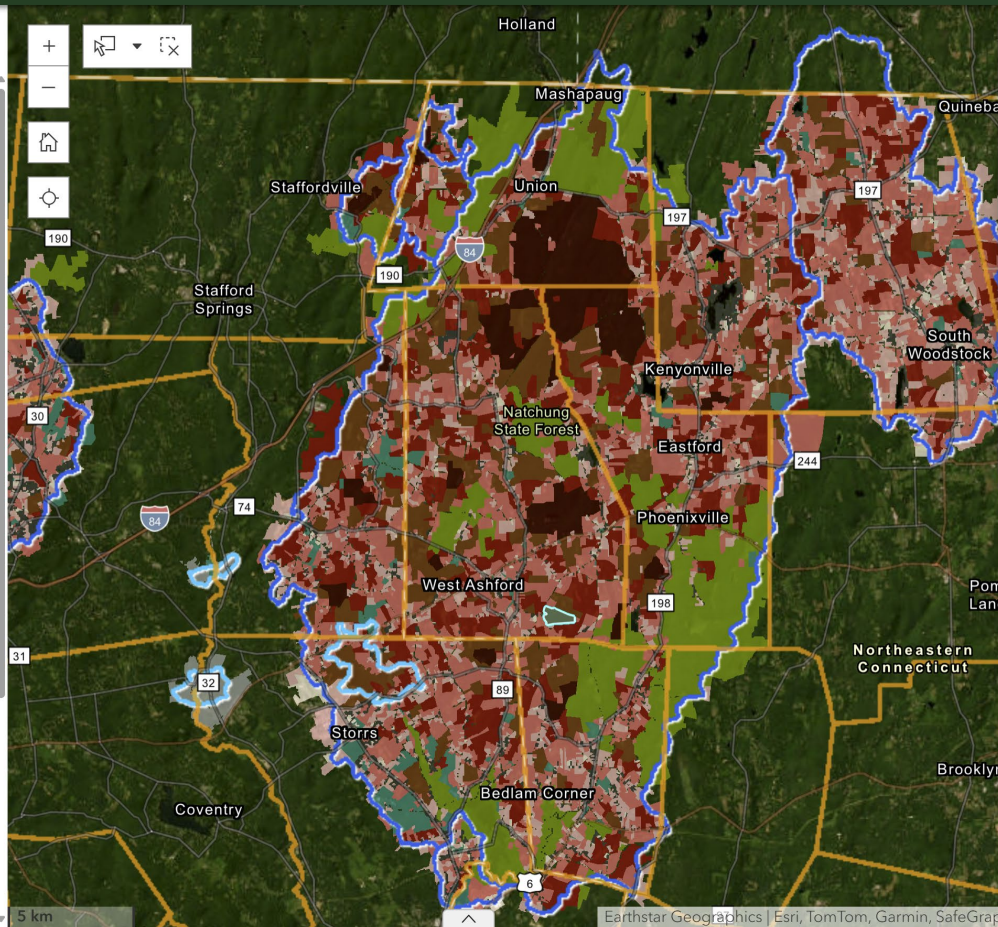
#### • Soil Metric

Percent of Highly Erodible Soil: 0% Score: 10

Percent of Shallow Soil to Water Table: 26.12 % Score: 5

Percent of Shallow Soil to Any Restriction: 91.01 % Score: 10

Percent of highly Conductible Soil: 33.29 % Score: 10



## Parcel Prioritization Viewer

### Parcel Information

**Town:** Ashford

**Acre:** 124.11

This parcel is located in a drinking water watershed.

**Surface Water Rank (scaled\*):** 9.31 out of 10 (actual rank: 7.57)

\*values stretched to a range of 0-10, see help for more info

### Surface Water Metrics

#### • Stream Metric

Distance to Stream: 0.00 ft Score: 10.00

Length of Stream: 4287.74 ft Score: 6.67

#### • Waterbody Metric

Distance to Waterbody: 0 ft Score: 10.00

Percent of Waterbody: 11.24 % Score: 6.67

#### • Wetland Metric

Distance to Wetland: 0 ft Score: 10.00

Percent of Wetland: 9.55 % Score: 3.33

#### • Treatment Intake Metric

Distance to Treatment Plant Intake Buffer: >1000 ft Score: 0.00

Distance to Intake Reservoir: >1000 ft Score: 0.00

#### • Riparian Metric

Area of Riparian Zone: 46.98 acre Score: 6.67

Percent of Riparian Zone: 37.85 % Score: 7.5

#### • Soil Metric

Percent of Highly Erodible Soil: 0% Score: 10

Percent of Shallow Soil to Water Table: 9.55 % Score: 10

Percent of Shallow Soil to Any Restriction: 88.96 % Score: 10

Percent of highly Conductible Soil: 48.98 % Score: 10

#### • Slope Metric

Percent of Extremely Steep Slope: 32.15 % Score: 6.67

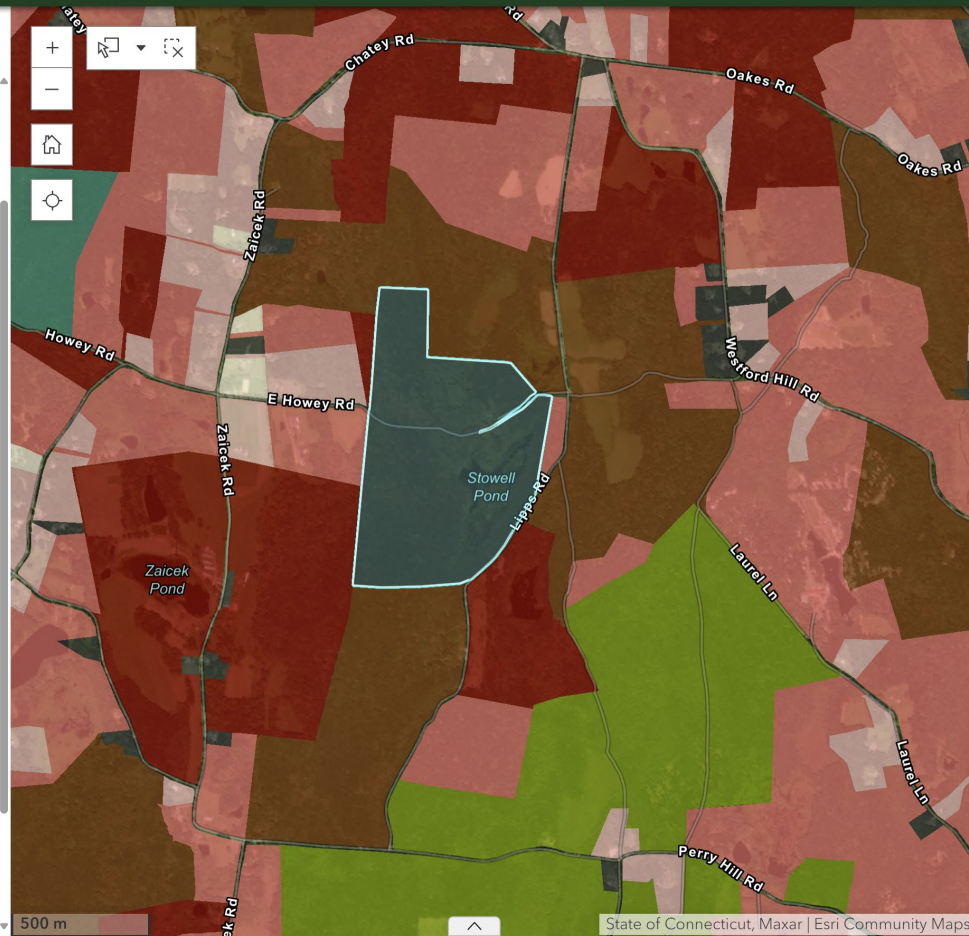
Percent of Moderately Steep Slope: 28.52 % Score: 6.67

#### • Parcel Size Metric

Area within DWV or APA: 124.11 acre Score: 10.00

#### • Land Cover Metric

Percent of Forest: 86.17 % Score: 7.5



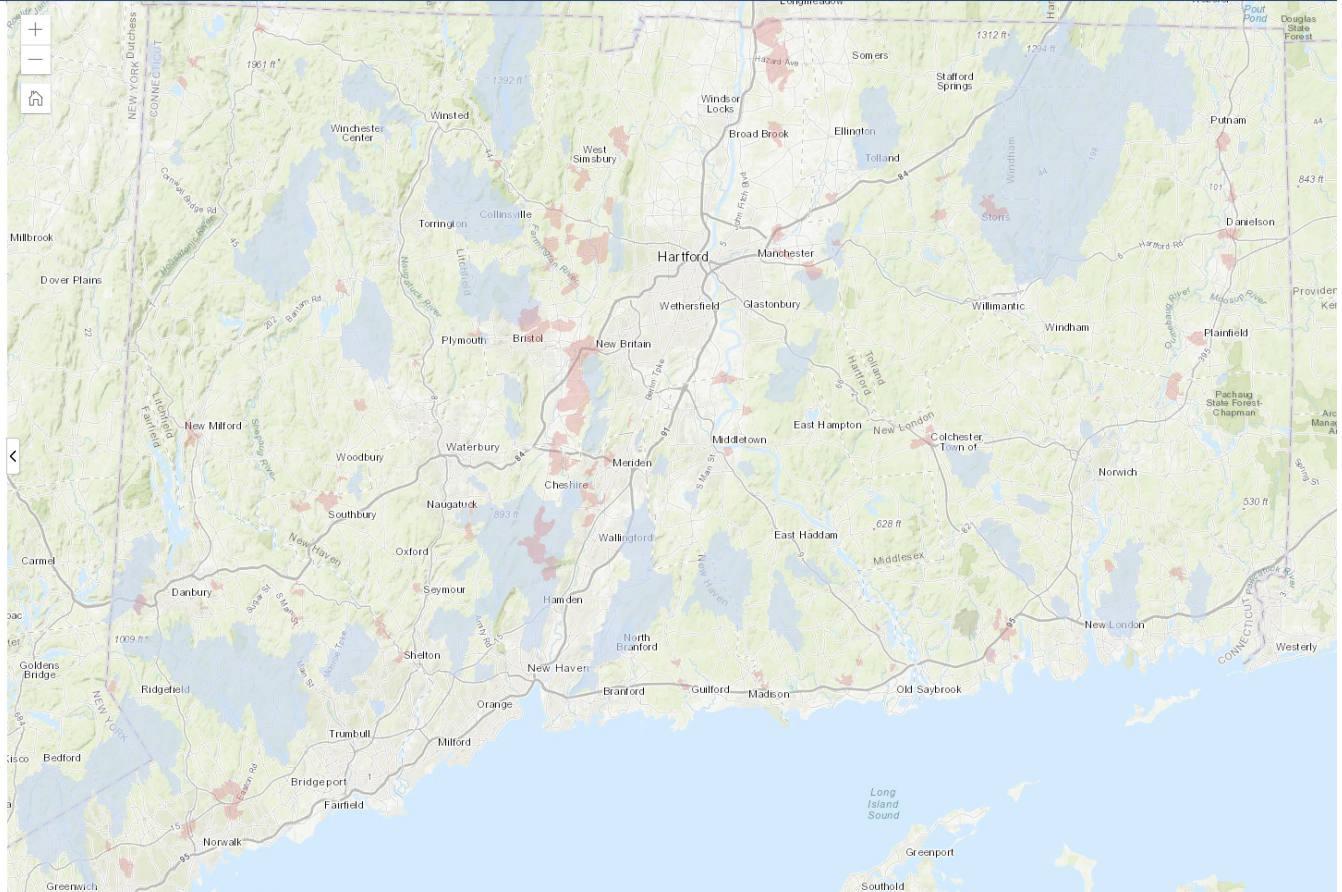
- <https://clear.uconn.edu/projects/sourcewater/>

# Public Water Supply Mapping Application

## Public Drinking Water Map Viewer

Connecticut Department of Public Health

- 👁 Drinking Water Watersheds ...
- 👁 Service Areas of Community Public Water Systems ...
- 👁 Connected\_Sewer\_Service\_Areas ...
- 👁 Private\_Well\_Parcel ...
- 👁 Connecticut\_CAMA\_and\_Parcel\_Layer ...
- 👁 Surface Water Source Protection Parcel Rank ...
- 👁 Exclusive Service Areas (as of Jan. 2020) ...
- 👁 Approved ESA Modifications ...
- 👁 Ortho\_2023 ...



- DRINKING WATER >
- Contact Information >
- Forms and Applications >
- Publications and Reports >
- Resources and Links >
- Drinking Water Topics A to Z >
- DPH Homepage >

Search Department of Public Health

# Source Water Assessment and Protection

The Source Protection and Assessment Unit is responsible for the purity and adequacy of Connecticut's approximately 4,000 surface and ground water drinking water supply sources. The program elements coordinate, manage, and regulate source protection through the enhancement and oversight of existing source protection laws and regulations, integration with water supply planning, education of local land use officials, and involvement with stakeholders on a continuous basis.

### Forms

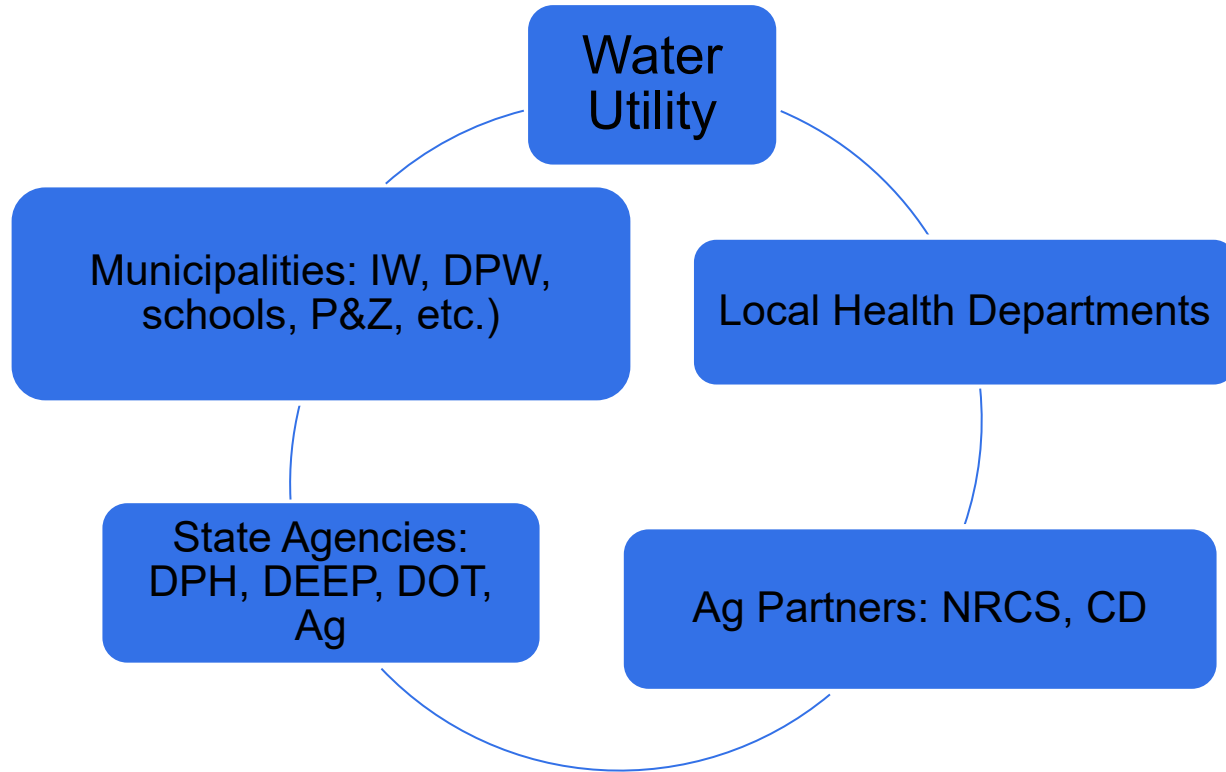
- [Project Notification Form](#) (Watershed or Aquifer Area)
- [Water Company Land Permit Application](#) 📄
- [Watershed Sanitary Survey Inspection Form](#) 📄
- [Well Site Permitting and Application](#)

### Source Protection Resources

- [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Aquifer Protection Area Program](#)
- [Connecticut Source Water Collaborative](#)
- [General Construction Best Management Practices for Sites within a Public Drinking Water Supply Area](#) 📄
- [Summary of CT Statutes & Regulations for the Protection of Public Drinking Water Sources](#) 📄
- [Watershed Inspection Guidelines](#) 📄
- [Watershed Inspector Training](#)
- [DPH/DEEP Memorandum of Agreement for the Use of Aquatic Pesticides in Public Water Supply Watersheds](#) 📄
- [Public Water Supply Watershed Map Viewer](#)



## Establish and Maintain Partnerships



## More tools

- Handout for property owners: Clean Water and Your Health  
[http://ctawwa.org/images/downloads/Resources/clean\\_water\\_and\\_your\\_health.pdf](http://ctawwa.org/images/downloads/Resources/clean_water_and_your_health.pdf)
- Watershed Sanitary Survey Inspection Form (MS Excel)
- CTAWWA Source Water Protection Committee – interact with your peers

# If you identify evidence of a spill:

## [Spill Reporting \(ct.gov\)](#)

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Emergency Response Unit, **860-424-3338 or toll free 1-866-DEP-SPIL (1-866-337-7745)**, 24 hours/day. Should these number become unavailable for any reason, call 860-424-3333.

Immediately after the spill you are required to report facts such as:

- the location;
- the quantity and type of substance, material or waste;
- the date and the cause of the incident;
- the name and address of the owner; and
- the name and address of the person making the report and his relationship to the owner.

- Software used by the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection for spill response and tracking
- Recent enhancements for public water systems
- Individual notifications via email to you for spill incidents that occur within your drinking water watershed(s) or aquifer protection area(s)
- Ability to log into application and obtain additional information
- DPH will assist in setting this up for you; your water system has already been contacted
- [Lisette.stone@ct.gov](mailto:Lisette.stone@ct.gov) or [eric.k.Lindquist@ct.gov](mailto:eric.k.Lindquist@ct.gov)

Contacts from Latest Incident Report

| Contact Type          | First Name | Last Name | Title | Email | Phone | 24 Hr Phone | Mobile/Pager | Company | Street | City | State | Zip |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|--------------|---------|--------|------|-------|-----|
| No items to be listed |            |           |       |       |       |             |              |         |        |      |       |     |

**Incident Details**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Incident Description</b>   | Unknown amount of hydraulic fluid released due to a line burst on a truck. Storm drain affected. |
| <b>Incident Date and Time</b> | 3/17/2025  |
| <b>Incident Type</b>          | Petroleum Incident   |
| <b>Incident Subtype</b>       | Equipment Failure  |
| <b>Source Type</b>            | Transportation   |
| <b>Source Subtype</b>         | Road Transport Motor Vehicle   |
| <b>Incident Status</b>        | Inactive   |
| <b>Confirmation Number</b>    | 20250317202500670  |
| <b>Released Into Medium</b>   | Ground Surface   |

**Incident Location**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Address</b>                                     | [Redacted] Turnpike West, Manchester, CT |
| <b>Location Description</b>                        |  |
| <b>Lat/Long</b>                                    | 41.7791 / -72.5397                       |
| <b>Town/Tribe</b>                                  | Manchester                               |
| <b>County</b>                                      | Hartford County                          |
| <b>LEPC</b>  | Region-CREPC                             |
| <b>Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed Area</b> |  |
| <b>Wellhead Protection Area</b>                    |  |
| <b>Aquifer Protection Area Name</b>                |  |

**Site Details**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Company Name</b>                               |                     |
| <b>Facility Name</b>                              |                     |
| <b>Facility Address</b>                           |                     |
| <b>Nature of Business</b>                         |                     |
| <b>Is Spill Continuous</b>                        | No                  |
| <b>Discovered/Start Date &amp; Time</b>           |                     |
| <b>Estimated Duration</b>                         |                     |
| <b>End Date &amp; Time</b>                        |                     |
| <b>Is Spill Contained</b>                         |                     |
| <b>Extent of Spill/Release</b>                    | Extent Undetermined |
| <b>Extent Details</b>                             |                     |
| <b>Reported to National Response Center (NRC)</b> |                     |

**Reporting Party Information**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Reporting Party Name</b>    | Jared              |
| <b>Reporting Party Company</b> | [Redacted]         |
| <b>Reporting Party Phone</b>   | [Redacted]         |
| <b>Reporting Party Email</b>   |                    |
| <b>Reported Date and Time</b>  | 3/17/2025 06:24 AM |

— Response Details

**No Response Reason:**  Notification only.

**Incident Not Substantiated:**

**Is this a release to land and waters of the state that is reportable per the Release Reporting Regulations?**

**ERC On-Scene:**

**Agencies On-Scene:**

**Significant Hazard Notification Notes:**

**Was the released substance recovered?** No

**Was soil removed?**

**Was substance dispersed in air or water?**

**Has the substance dissipated into the air or water?** No

**Has the substance evaporated into the air or water?**

**Has the substance been neutralized into the air or water?** Yes

**Has the release been investigated?** Yes

**Have other corrective actions been taken?** Yes

**Have tanks been removed?**

**Initial Actions taken:**

**Key Observations:** Notification only. Heavy Rain was occurring during the incident.

**Referrals:**

**Were violations, negligence, or intentional acts potentially contributing to this incident?**

**Have tanks been repaired?**

**Has the tank or container been pumped out?**

**Have the containers been removed?**

**Were test wells installed?**

**Was foam applied?**

**Was the leaking line repaired?**

**Has the spill area been sanded?** Yes

**Was the incident referred to UST/Enforcement?**

— Chemical/Released Pollutant Number of Chemicals: 1

**Incident Chemicals**

Pesticides/Herbicides are Unknown

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), transformer/capacitor, or utility pole are Unknown

PFAS and/or Firefighting Foam are Unknown

Halogenated Solvent are Unknown

| CAS Number | Chemical Name | Trade Name | Is EHS | Is Radioactive | Estimated Volume | Estimated Volume in Pounds | Recovered Volume |
|------------|---------------|------------|--------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| N/A        | Hydraulic Oil |            | No     | No             |                  |                            |                  |

## Summary

- Know your watershed
- Understand the law and your authority
- Notify property owners, police, town in advance
- Know what to look for
- Track recurring/unaddressed issues
- Document your findings
- Know what to do next if you identify a problem (know your partners)
- Follow up
- Submit report by March 1 to [dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov](mailto:dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov)

Thank you – Any Questions?

Eric McPhee

Supervising Environmental Analyst

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

860-209-8965

[eric.mcphee@ct.gov](mailto:eric.mcphee@ct.gov)