South Central Connecticut Region Plan of Conservation & Development 2018 Update

Agriculture, Natural Resources, Open Space, Recreation, and Hazard Mitigation

July 18, 2017
Introductions
Purpose of Today’s Meeting

- Supplement data analysis with qualitative understanding of regional trends in agriculture, natural resources, open space, recreation, and hazard mitigation
- Get your assistance in identifying issues and concerns
- Inform the Regional POCD Update process
  - Build consensus around a vision for the region, and corresponding goals and objectives for its physical and economic future
  - Recommend actions for SCRCOG to undertake over the coming decade to advance towards the region’s vision
Natural Resources

- Air quality – Region has gained attainment for fine particle pollution, remains a non-attainment area for ozone
- Water resources – Farm River and its estuary, and Quinnipiac River recently chosen by DEEP as priority waters and embayment to develop Action Plans to restore
- SCRCOG partnering with RWA to apply for a grant to study the effects of climate change on public drinking water in the region
- Long Island Sound Report Card – B+ for the region – nutrients an issue, but generally supportive of aquatic life

Source: Long Island Sound Report Card, 2016
Open Space

- 23% of the region designated as permanent or semi-permanent open space in 2008
  - 500+ acres added since then through DEEP grant program alone
- The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has purchased upward of 20,000 acres and continues to add more as land becomes available
- Region Hiking Trails – SCRCOG recently completed documenting 66 individual trail brochures spread throughout the region

### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grants within SCRCOG Region, 2009-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>Etzel</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>$392,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWA - Hamden</td>
<td>Crosby</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbridge</td>
<td>Race Brook</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>$451,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Griswold Airport</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branford</td>
<td>Peiper</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meriden</td>
<td>Finch Ave</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Bauermister</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamden</td>
<td>Whitney Ave</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>$455,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>Westwoods</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branford</td>
<td>Kaczynski</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$137,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>Carrington Preserve</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>$232,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford - RWA</td>
<td>Dandio</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$396,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>Westwoods</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamden</td>
<td>Brooksvale</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$67,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td></td>
<td>512</td>
<td>$3,977,000</td>
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</table>

Source: SCRCOG POCD
In 2011, the five farmers’ markets operated by CitySeed in New Haven had total sales of more than $1,000,000 including $80K from public benefits SNAP/Food Stamps.

Agri-Tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of the CT Tourism industry, growing at about 33% percent annually.

Guilford has led the region in farmland preservation, designating 2,700 acres, or 9%, of its land as protected farmland.

Aquaculture – CT is a major producer of farm-raised shellfish generating $30 Million plus in farm-gate sales annually.

- 70,000 + Acres of shellfish farms are now under cultivation in CT coastal waters.

**CT Aquaculture Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Shellfish Harvesters</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellfish Harvest Vessels</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Seed Oystermen</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Seed Helpers</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Seed Boats</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firms Licensed for Wholesale Shellfish</td>
<td>32</td>
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</table>

Source: CT Dept. of Agriculture
Hazard Mitigation/ Coastal Resilience

- **Flooding and downed trees** identified as the region’s biggest hazard concerns

- Coastal communities in the region have the highest density and most populated coastline between Boston and New York

- SCRCOG Coastal Resilience Plan identifies approximately 300 regional projects to protect the public from flooding and storm surges

- FEMA has designated many areas along the region’s primary waterbodies within either the 100- or 500-year flood zone, many of which have been preserved for parks and open space

Source: SCRCOG A Framework for Coastal Resilience
Discussion

- What new natural resources or open space preservation, agricultural and/or hazard mitigation issues and trends has your community identified, what concerns do those trends raise, and how are you trying to address the issues?

- What are priority areas within the region for further open space preservation, and why?

- What role can SCRCOG play in supporting agriculture and aquaculture in the region?

- Do you see any missed opportunities for collaboration regarding disaster mitigation and coastal resilience?
POCD Update Process

**Project Initiation & Coordination**
- Finalize Scope
- SCRCOG Data and Mapping Review
- Coordinate on process

**Review of Plans & Data**
- Review Existing Regional Plan and Updated Data
- Identify Common Goals
- Develop Updated Land-Use Map
- Regional Planning Commission Meeting

**Community Involvement**
- Online Survey
- Focus Groups
- Other Multi-Faceted Outreach Methods

**Vision & Objectives**
- Survey & Outreach Analyses
- Regional Planning Commission Meetings to Strategize
- Meetings to result in Identified roadmap forward

**Draft Plan**
- Public Workshop / Public Hearing Late Oct.
- Regional Planning Commission Meeting Early Jan.
- SCRCOG Board Meeting Mid-Jan.

**Printing**
- (Statutory Review Period) Jan.- March 2018
- Public Workshop / Public Hearing Early April 2018

Timeline:
- Late March
- Early May
- April - July
- August - September
- September - January
- January - April
Thank you!

If you have additional information or comments you or your organization want to share, please get in touch with:

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