

South Central Connecticut Region Plan of Conservation & Development 2018 Update

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

July 18, 2017

Introductions

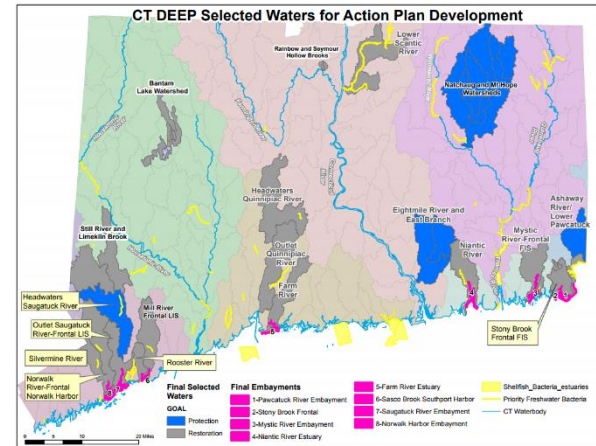
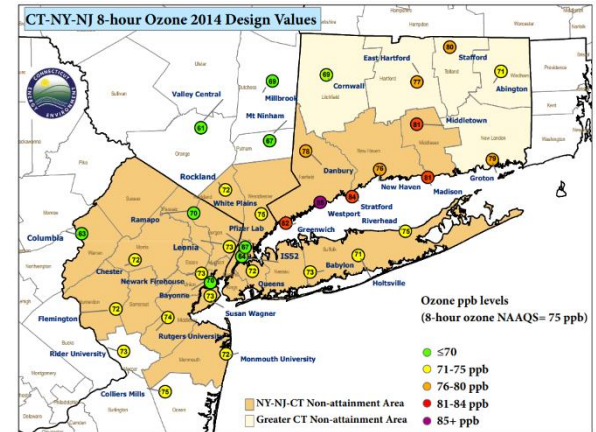


Purpose of Today's Meeting

- 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



B+ Central



Central Long Island Sound received a B+ (88%). Although nutrients are still a cause for concern in this region, increased exchange with the Atlantic Ocean leads to water quality generally supportive of aquatic life.

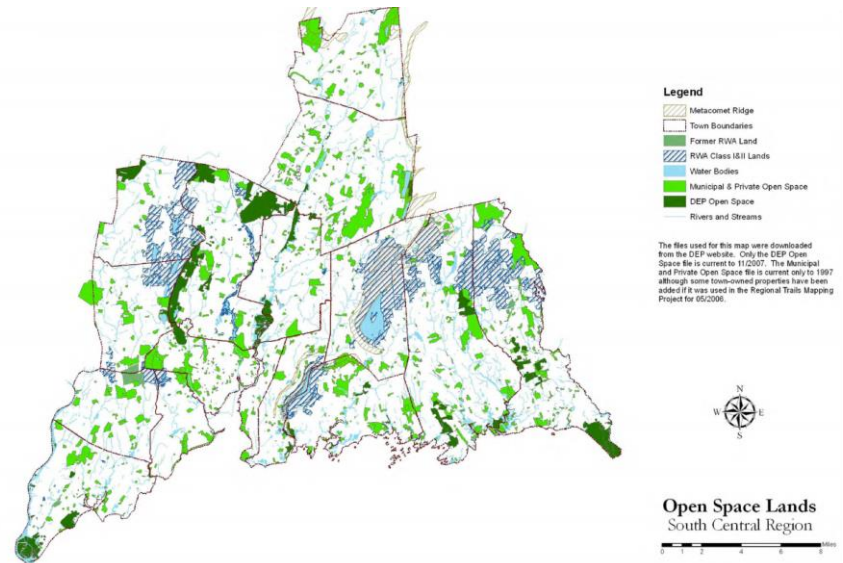
Source: Long Island Sound Report Card, 2016

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

Town	Property	Acreage	Grant
Guilford	Etzel	33	\$392,000
RWA - Hamden	Crosby	60	\$500,000
Woodbridge	Race Brook	53	\$451,000
Madison	Griswold Airport	17	\$500,000
Branford	Peiper	24	\$175,000
Meriden	Finch Ave	3	\$25,000
Madison	Bauermeister	79	\$500,000
Hamden	Whitney Ave	39	\$455,000
Guilford	Westwoods	17	\$60,000
Branford	Kaczynski	22	\$137,500
Bethany	Carrington Preserve	74	\$232,500
Guilford - RWA	Dandio	61	\$396,500
Guilford	Westwoods	15	\$85,000
Hamden	Brooksvale	15	\$67,500
TOTAL:		512	\$3,977,000



Agriculture/ Aquaculture

- 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

Farm Production Expenses for 2002 and 2007

County	County Production Expenses (\$) 2002	County Production Expenses (\$) 2007
Fairfield	\$22,249,000	\$24,854,000
Hartford	\$93,023,000	\$100,574,000
Litchfield	\$27,818,000	\$48,320,000
Middlesex	\$37,834,000	\$59,834,000
New Haven	\$48,908,000	\$75,005,000
New London	\$109,681,000	\$90,348,000
Tolland	\$29,126,000	\$32,466,000
Windham	\$29,048,000	\$37,918,000
Connecticut Total	\$397,687,000	\$469,319,000

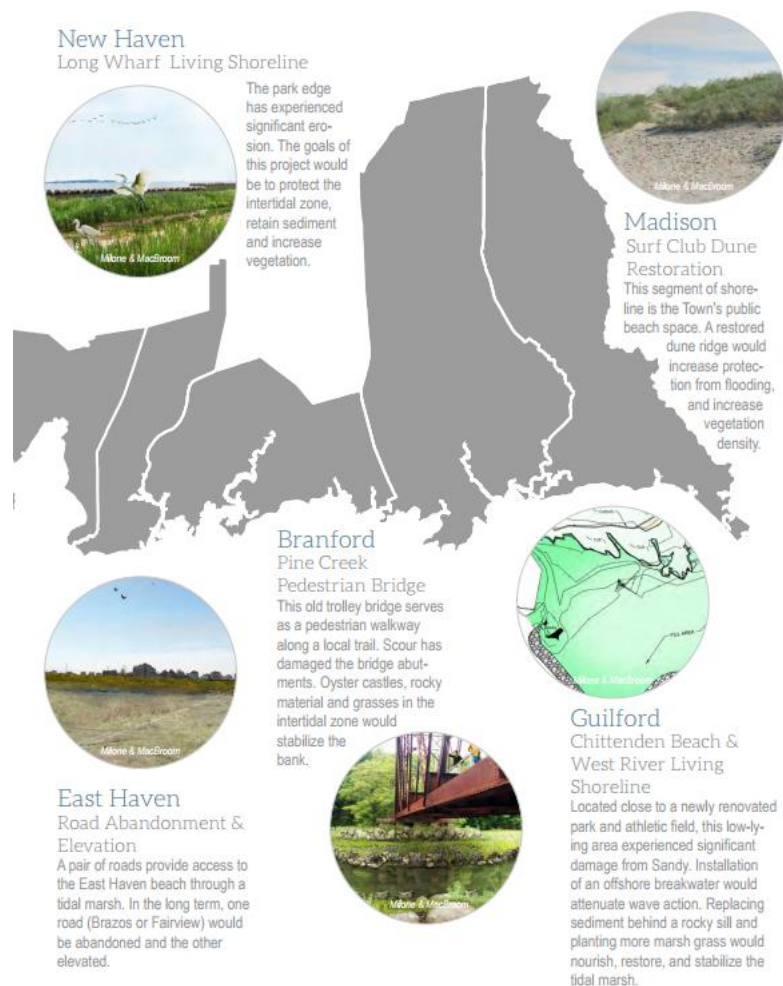
Source: American Farmland Trust

CT Aquaculture Statistics	
Licensed Shellfish Harvesters	44
Shellfish Harvest Vessels	110
Licensed Seed Oystermen	21
Licensed Seed Helpers	70
Licensed Seed Boats	30
Firms Licensed for Wholesale Shellfish Sales and Distribution	32

Source: CT Dept. of Agriculture

Hazard Mitigation/ Coastal Resilience

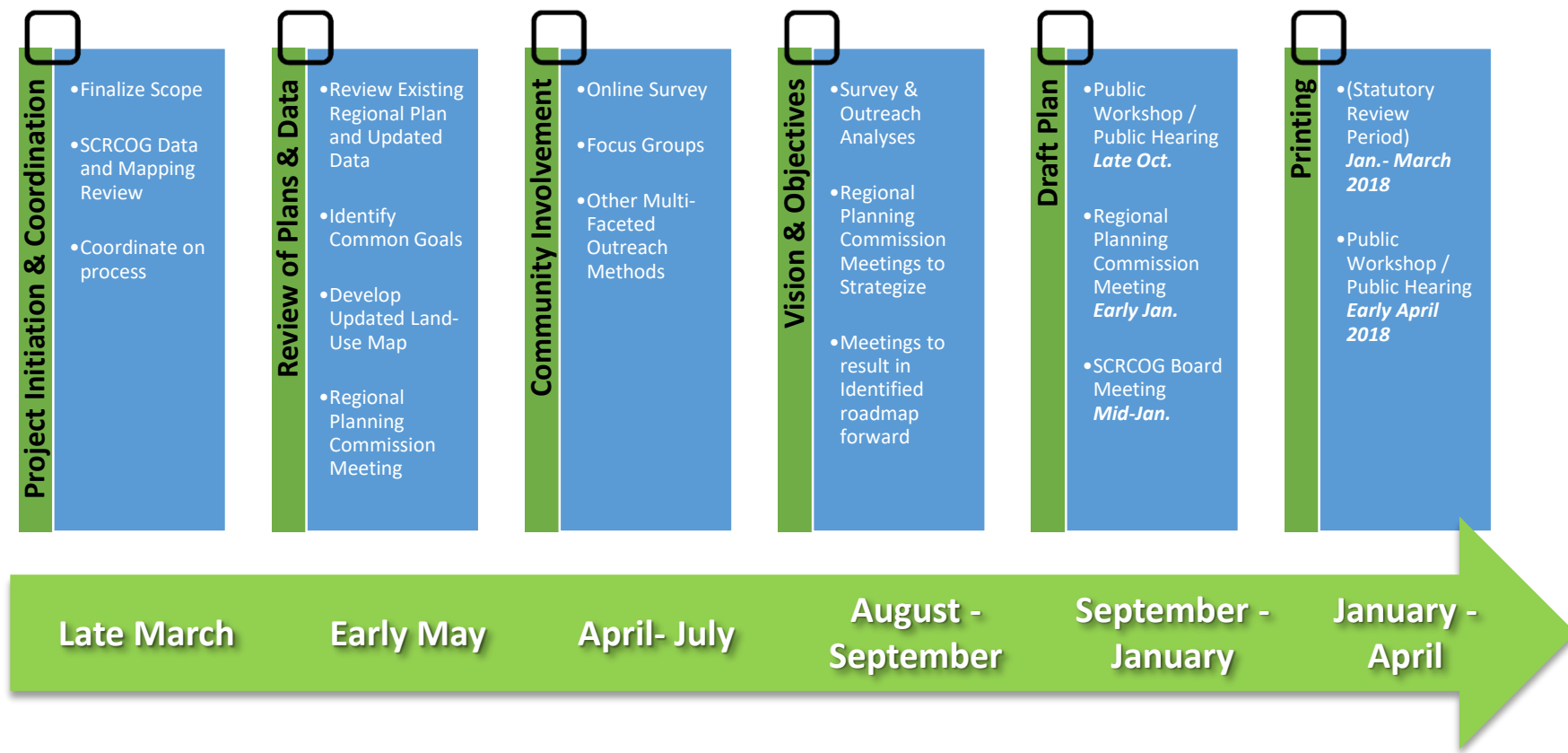
- **Flooding and downed trees** identified as the region's biggest hazard concerns
- Coastal communities in the region have the highest density and most populated coastline between Boston and New York
- SCRCOG Coastal Resilience Plan identifies approximately 300 regional projects to protect the public 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



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



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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