

Areas for Future Study and Consideration

In the process of completing Guilford's first Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment, certain information was noted as currently unavailable, incomplete, or not possible to include. It is listed here, with the expectation that future editions will address these issues.

Geology

- Add a slope map depicting slopes in categories of 10 percent, 15 percent, 20 percent, 25 percent, 30 percent

Freshwater

- Update information on impervious surface coverage in Guilford's sub-regional watersheds
- Update information on fish runs in West and East Rivers
- Update information on status of Lake Quonnipaug

Uplands

- Map small grasslands
- Describe Broomstick Ledges in more detail
- Inventory coastal upland vegetation
- Describe shift in annual species over time (coyote, turkey, red fox, grey fox, white-tailed deer)

Coast

- Describe commercial shellfish beds
- Describe moderating effect of the coast on our climate
- Identify and discuss Guilford's critical stop-over areas used by migrating shorebirds
- Update information on the decline of lobster aquaculture in Guilford

Agriculture

- Analyze agricultural and forest acreage

The Dark Night Sky

- Analyze the diminution of Guilford's dark night sky by night lighting

Natural Resource-Based Scenic Resources

- Map ridgetops
- Identify additional Town-owned Scenic Roads

Open Space

- Map lands classified under Public Act 490 Preferential Tax Program
- Include more information about SCCRWA ownership of land in Guilford
- Identify committed open space in abutting towns that could serve as wildlife movement corridors and/or connecting trail systems

Significant Natural Resource Areas

- Ground-truth specific areas of concern

Add Archeological and other cultural resources

- As a coastal town with fertile soils, Guilford is rich in archeological resources. The map Archeological Resources of the Town of Guilford (2003), prepared by Nicolas Bellantoni, State Archeologist is available in Town Hall South. The next edition of the NRIA should include a specific section on these important resources.

General

- Emphasize value of biodiversity
- Rank threats to individual resources and across resources
- Assess the likely effects of climate change on Guilford's natural resources
- Assess air pollution and its effect on Guilford's natural resources
- Include approaches to preservation and conservation of natural resources in Guilford
- Discuss Guilford's location within the North Atlantic Coast ecoregion
- Incorporate studies and reports conducted by university students (e.g., Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies) over past several years

Comments on this edition and suggestions for the next edition of this document are welcome. Readers are invited to respond directly to:
Conservation Commission Chairperson, Town Hall, Guilford, CT 06437