

## Preface

In accord with its charge to manage the Town's natural resources, the Guilford Conservation Commission is pleased to present this first edition of the Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment (NRIA). In this document the reader will find a broad array of factual information from diverse sources, gathered for the first time in one document. Maps developed from the Town's Geographic Information System and other sources illustrate the locations and inter-relationships of these resources.

The *Plan of Conservation and Development* (2002) and the *Plan for Open Space and Municipal Land Needs* (1999) call for completion of a natural resource inventory, and the Guilford Conservation Commission has been given the responsibility for developing and maintaining such a document. In May 2002, the Conservation Commission (CC) voted unanimously to establish a Natural Resource Inventory Committee (NRIAC) with a Mission Statement as presented on page 4. Three members of the CC and six members of the community at large were appointed to the NRIAC. The group subsequently added to its ranks various individuals in a research and advisory capacity with professional experience in related fields. Each of these in turn consulted with other experts and reference materials, bringing together disparate sources of information to supplement their own contributions.

The NRIAC carried out its initial work over a two-year period, resulting in this first edition. The NRIA is an effort that goes beyond the publication of this document, and will continue to evolve for as long as questions remain and new data is uncovered. Additional work is being planned by the CC in order to add to and refine existing data and analysis, and to create future editions. We hope that more citizens of Guilford who are skilled in scientific observation and/or presenting and organizing data will want to participate in the process of adding to the body of knowledge presented here.

We hope that the NRIA will serve both as a tool for those Town officials whose responsibility it is to maintain Guilford's quality of life, and as an educational reference for all citizens interested in supporting natural resource conservation. The document is designed to be informative and practical without being excessively technical. Numerous references are given for those seeking technical information.

Questions, comments, or additional information from the general public and natural resource professionals are encouraged. These should be directed to the Conservation Commission Chairperson, Guilford Town Hall, 30 Park Street, Guilford, CT 06437.

Conservation Commission  
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