

Thomaston, Connecticut

DUGROAD OPEN SPACE PROPERTY

Resource Inventory and Analysis

Environmental Review Assessment

October 2017- January 2018

**Prepared and Submitted
by the
CTRC&D Environmental Review Team
Haddam, Connecticut**

March, 2018

Figure A-1 - 1975 USGS Map—



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Figure A-3 - CTRC&D ERT Team Meeting—Pre Site Walk—Thomaston Municipal Complex, - Photo J Davies- CTRC&D 2017

Dug Road & Walnut Hill Road Open Space Property, Thomaston, CT Town of Thomaston

Environmental Review Team Report

Prepared by the
Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development
Environmental Review Team

Report #1005 - March 12, 2018
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report originates from a request of the Thomaston Conservation Commission, A Connecticut Conservation Commission's regulatory mission is to perform the following:

1. Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas.
2. Conduct research into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas of the municipality.
3. Administer gifts in the name of the municipality for the commission's purposes subject to the terms of the gift
4. Approve, prior to submission, state grant-in-aid applications for programs to preserve or restrict the use of open space land to conservation or recreation purposes.
5. Keep records of its meetings, activities and an annual report to the municipality in the manner required of other municipal agencies.

Within this guidance, the Thomaston Conservation Commission submitted a request to CTRC&D for an environmental review and inventory of natural resource assets and basic recommendations for property and resource management for municipal open space property near Dug Road - Hillside Cemetery in Thomaston, CT.

The CTRC&D Environmental Review program and service is currently a "no-cost" natural resource and land use planning solution for Connecticut municipalities, including municipal and non-profit land trusts to obtain baseline environmental data and best management conservation, public access, and land management practices for existing or future conservation land. The management, facilitation, and report writing costs for an ERT review are underwritten by CTRC&D.

CTRC&D would like to acknowledge and express their appreciation for the important work of the following professional ERT Review Team volunteer members. Their professionalism and expertise are critical to the analysis and options available to the Thomaston Conservation Commission to provide a baseline assessment of critical natural resources and land use conditions present at the Dug Road—Walnut Hill Municipal Open Space property and relevant adjacent areas with significant natural and supportive resources.

The field review was conducted on Tuesday, October 24, 2017.

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Special thanks to Jeremy Leifert, Land Use Administrator for Thomaston Connecticut who provided valuable introductory mapping, information on required information needed for site assessment and a comprehensive site tour on a stormy cold October 24, 2017.

Prior to the review day, each CTR&D-ERT Team member receives a summary of the ERT request and property layout including various maps. During the field review and after Team members received additional information; some Team members made separate or additional field visits to the site. Following the reviews, reports from each Team member were submitted to the CTR&D ERT office for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report represents the Team's findings. It's purpose is to provide a baseline for decisions or future work with private consultants to provide site plans or detailed solutions. The Team does not recommend final actions as all final decisions rest with the municipality or land trust. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to the proposed use, and suggests considerations that should be of concern. The results of this ERT Team action are oriented toward the development of better environmental quality, long term conservation and associated economic value of complementary land use practices. The Connecticut RC&D Council hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in providing information as the Town of Thomaston and its Conservation Commission move forward toward managing public use of this unique and beautiful municipal open space asset.

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Figure A-4—CTRC&D ERT Team—View of Meadow from summit of Dug Road Open Space Property

INTRODUCTION

In April 2016, the Thomaston Conservation Commission contacted the CTRC&D-ERT Program with a request to provide a natural resource inventory and analysis of a property for ongoing management for geologic features, soils, wetlands, recreation, potable water, archaeological/ historical context and a community garden on a portion of the property.

Through online and phone discussions with Thomaston's Land Use Coordinator, CTRC&D staff were able identify a time frame to complete the analysis in 2017 and create a scope for analysis of the property's natural resources and conservation use. In summary, the goal for this environmental review process for the property by the CTRC&D Environmental Review Team includes:

- ◆ A baseline understanding of the geologic history of the property and current geologic overview of the property
- ◆ Mapping and analysis of the soil characteristics of the property, specifically dominant soil types and best practices for those soil type based on topography and erosion potential based on use.
- ◆ An archaeological and cultural assessment of the property and potential mechanism for heritage, cultural and environmental mitigation, public education and preservation.
- ◆ Preliminary assessment and mapping of wetland soils, vernal pools, stream characteristics, and supportive characteristics for wildlife.
- ◆ Overview of options to supply potable water to the site.
- ◆ Assessment of transportation to and within site (access, parking, topography, municipal and regional connections
- ◆ Assessment of forest health and forestry management options

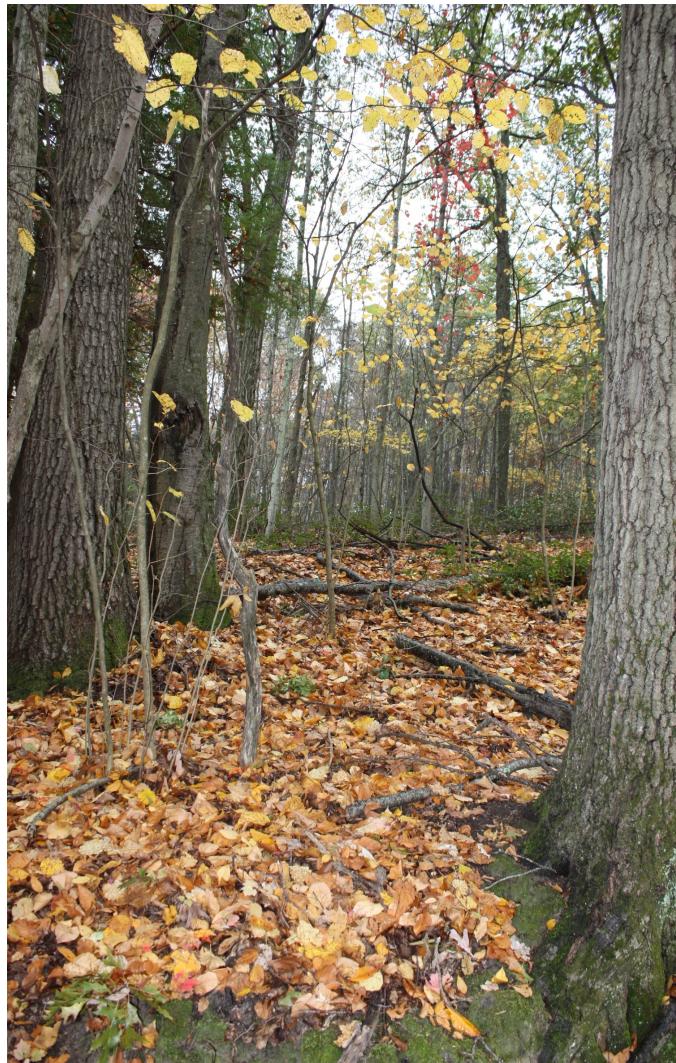


Figure A-5—Dug Road Open Space Property—Forest Growth—
Property Interior Photo: J Davies—CTRC&D 2017

- ◆ Invasive plant management recommendations
- ◆ Analysis of a future community garden site on the property
- ◆ Assessment for recreational use of property

CTRC&D worked to assemble a team of available professional volunteers who could perform many of the above needed services which reviewed maps and materials over in August 2017 with a site visit conducted on October 24, 2017 to view and assess the property conditions

DUG ROAD OPEN SPACE - Thomaston History



Figure A-6. Historic View of Thomaston, CT - Vintage Postcard—Hugh C Leighton & Co

Thomaston History Summary

Within Litchfield County, Thomaston is one of the youngest towns, incorporating in 1875. The town, originally part of Plymouth, Connecticut, and referred to as 'Plymouth Hollow' was first settled around 1683–1728. In the [History of Litchfield County](#), the area is described as hilly and the soil is generally fertile. The town's early history prior to its incorporation is described within historical descriptions and documents for the neighboring towns. Originally a small village of less than twenty buildings in 1826, the town quickly developed into the lively and attractive manufacturing town during the industrial age of development and ultimately named for the proprietor of its most famous industry. Thomaston is known for clock making, which started in 1809, when Eli Terry established a factory in the town. The town was incorporated in its own right and under the name "Thomaston" in 1875. The name derives from Seth Thomas, the early clockmaker, who established a factory in town in 1812. As early as 1825, the area to be known as Thomaston was an agrarian community. Seth Thomas owned a farmhouse prior nearby the village center. The Seth Thomas clock factory building still exists; however, the clock making industry has long since left the Connecticut as well as the United States.

History of Litchfield County, CT. J.W. Lewis & Co. 1881



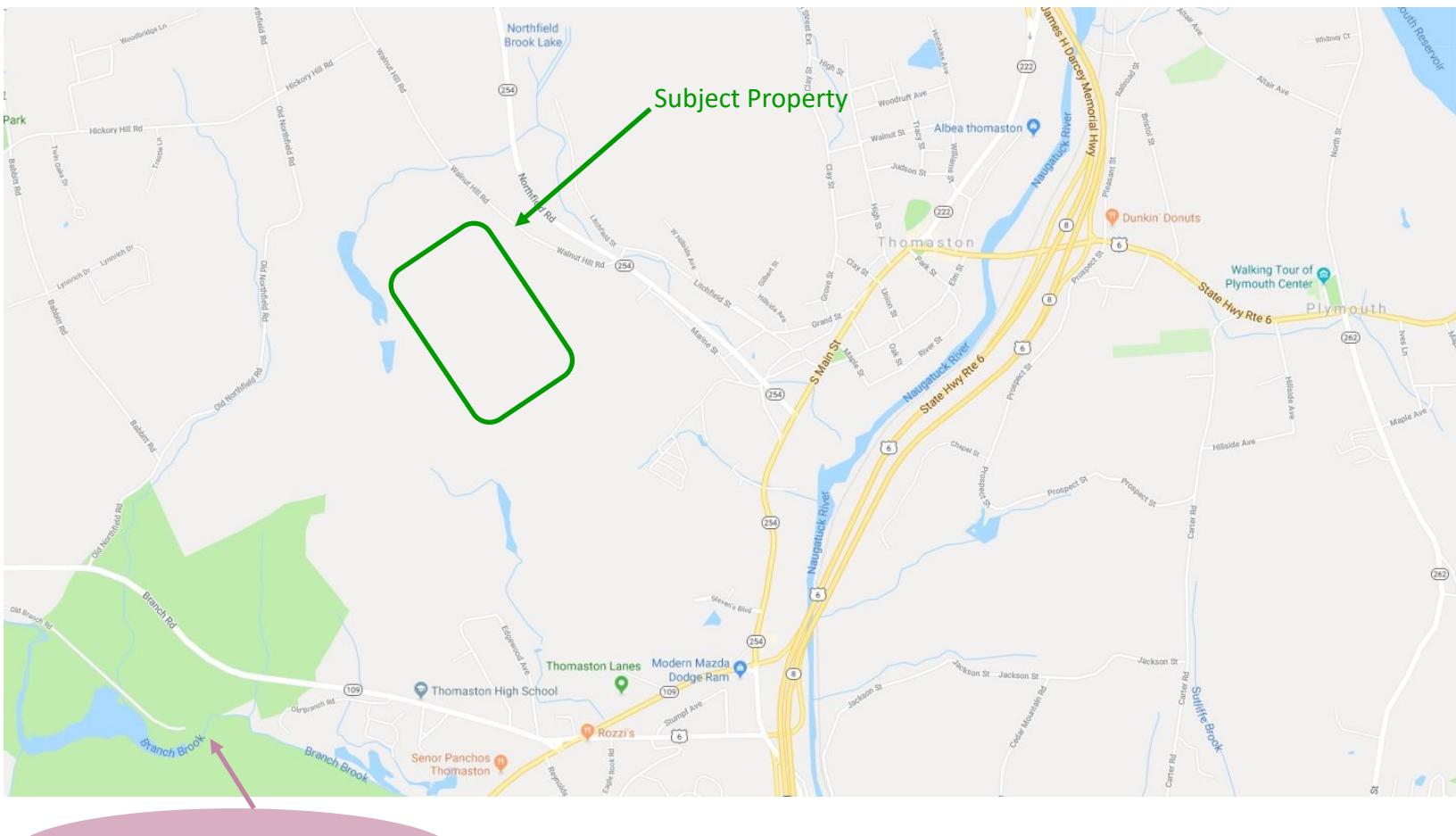
Figure A-7 Vintage Postcard - Main St Thomaston, CT Looking North/Date Unknown



Figure A-8 Vintage Postcard - Factories Thomaston, CT/ Date Unknown



- Figure A-9- Google Earth View of Dug Road Open Space Property zoomed into down town looking east. Source:: Google Earth
- Figure A-10: Google street map depicting relative location of Dug Road Open Space in context with area features. Source: Google 2017



Figures A 11 and A 12 —Property location and acreage description and correlating town assessor parcel locations Source: Thomaston Land Use Department: GIS Parcel Mapping 2015—Geosystems

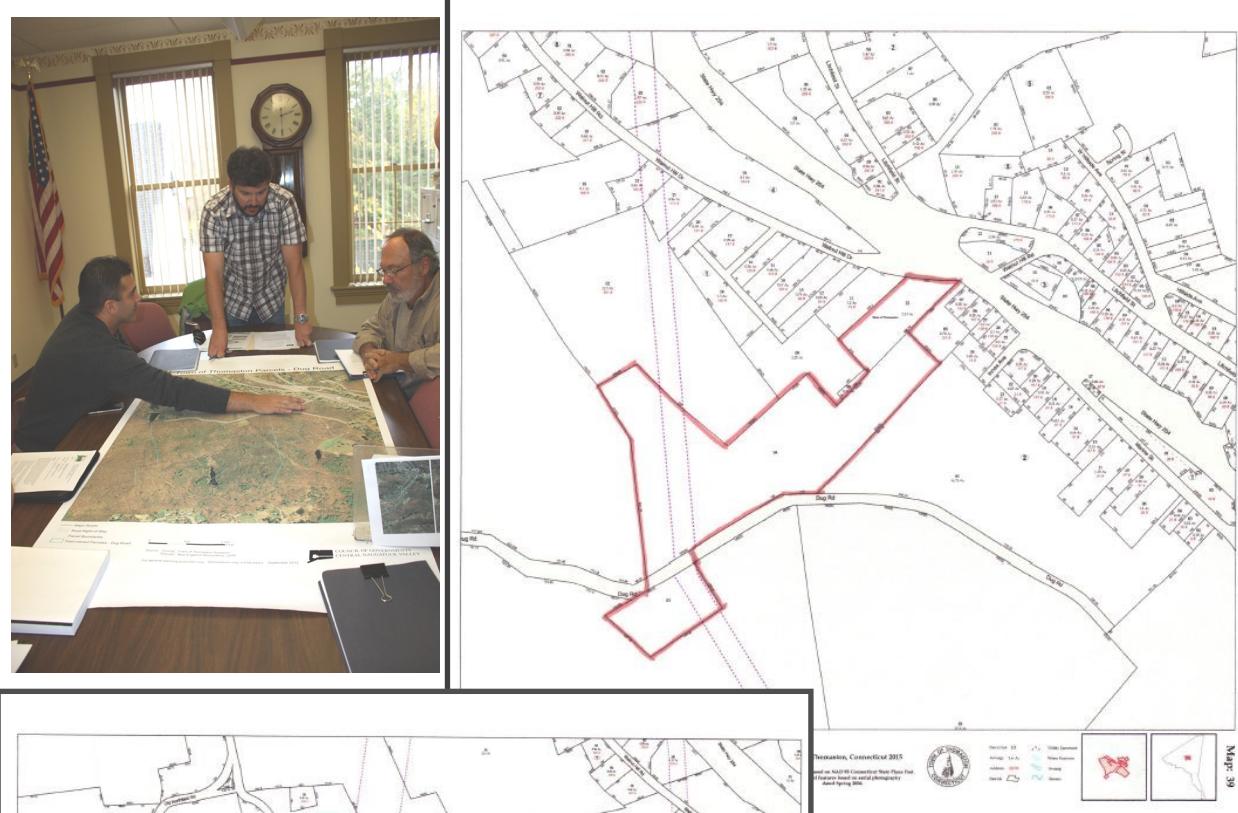


Figure A-11



Figure A-12

Overview of Property Resources

Dug Road Municipal Open Space Analysis

The ERT Team goal for the Dug Road Open Space Property is confirmation of critical resources in need of long term management for cost effective sustainable management for the municipal property and associated recreational uses. The property has potential regional significance as a connective area of open space area to the a system of open space property that may eventually link to Mattatuck State Forest, Humaston Brook State Park and regional trail systems which link Thomaston to other communities in the areas of the Northwest Hills area.

Geology -Excerpt Randolph Steinen, Geologist—Professor Emeritus UConn

The hillshaded Lidar digital elevation (topographic) model (DEM) in this region of the Naugatuck River drainage basin is characterized by areas that appear smooth and areas that appear rough (Figure A-13). Bedrock crops-out or lies close to the surface in the areas of rough appearing topography while thick glacial till covers the rock surface in the smooth appearing areas. The smooth areas look streaked out in a SSE-NNW direction, which is the direction that ice age glaciers are interpreted to have moved. Most of the area within the Dug Road Open Space parcels has a rough appearing topography on the DEM (Figure A-14). The highest elevation in the area is the southern extension of what is identified as Hickory Hill (Warren, 1972) which has an elevation of close to 900 feet (see Figure A-15). The lowest area, along Walnut Hill Road, is just greater than 450 feet. Thus, the relief of the area is around 450 feet. Many hills and ridges, some with local cliff faces, are separated by shallow valleys within the area. Numerous areas of steep and moderate slopes abound.

The bedrock geology of the area was mapped by R. Cassie in the early 1970's (Figure 15). He shows most of the area within the open space parcels is composed of the Straits Schist that was later intruded by Nonewaug Granite (not seen on field visit). Possibly some of what Cassie called the Hartland Schist, now referred to as Ratlum Mountain Schist, underlies northeast portions of the open space parcels, but was not observed during our field visit. Ratlum Mountain Schist: As described by Rodgers (1985) the schist (Figure 16A) is fine grained, silvery colored, with muscovite mica, garnets, staurolite, and kyanite. This schist is the oldest rock in the area, having been initially formed as a sedimentary rock in the Ordovician period (about 450 million years ago).

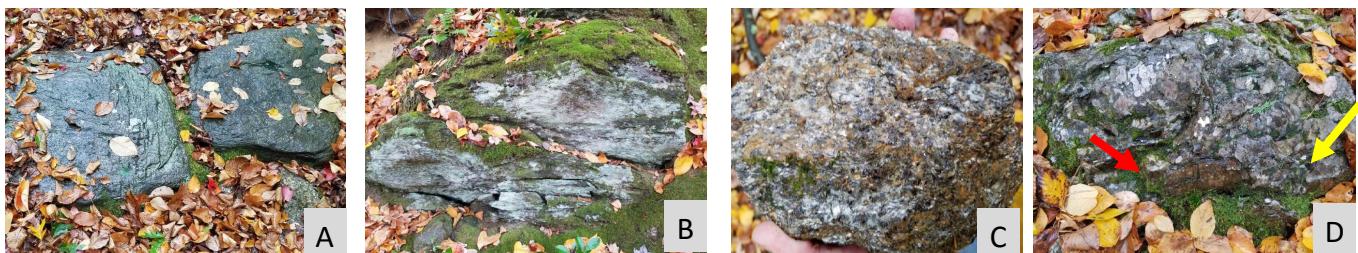


Figure A-16. A. Ratlum Mountain Schist. These rocks are part of the glacial deposits and are not outcrops of ledge. The schist is silvery colored and fine- to medium-grained. Compare with Straits Schist hand sample (Figure 4C). Leaves are approximately 2-3 inches for scale. B. Typical low outcrop of Straits Schist. It is rounded by glacial erosion. Rough grain (layering) to rock is oriented approximately east-west and dips into the hill at this location. C. Hand sample of Straits Schist is coarse grained, contains garnets and biotite mica. Geologists thumb (bottom left for scale). D. Pegmatite. Large crystals of muscovite mica (white arrows), quartz (yellow arrows) and feldspar (red arrows).

Straits Schist: Bedrock in the area is composed of metamorphic rocks referred to as the Straits Schist (Figure 16B, C) which contains local pods of coarse grained pegmatite (Figure 16D). The schist is composed

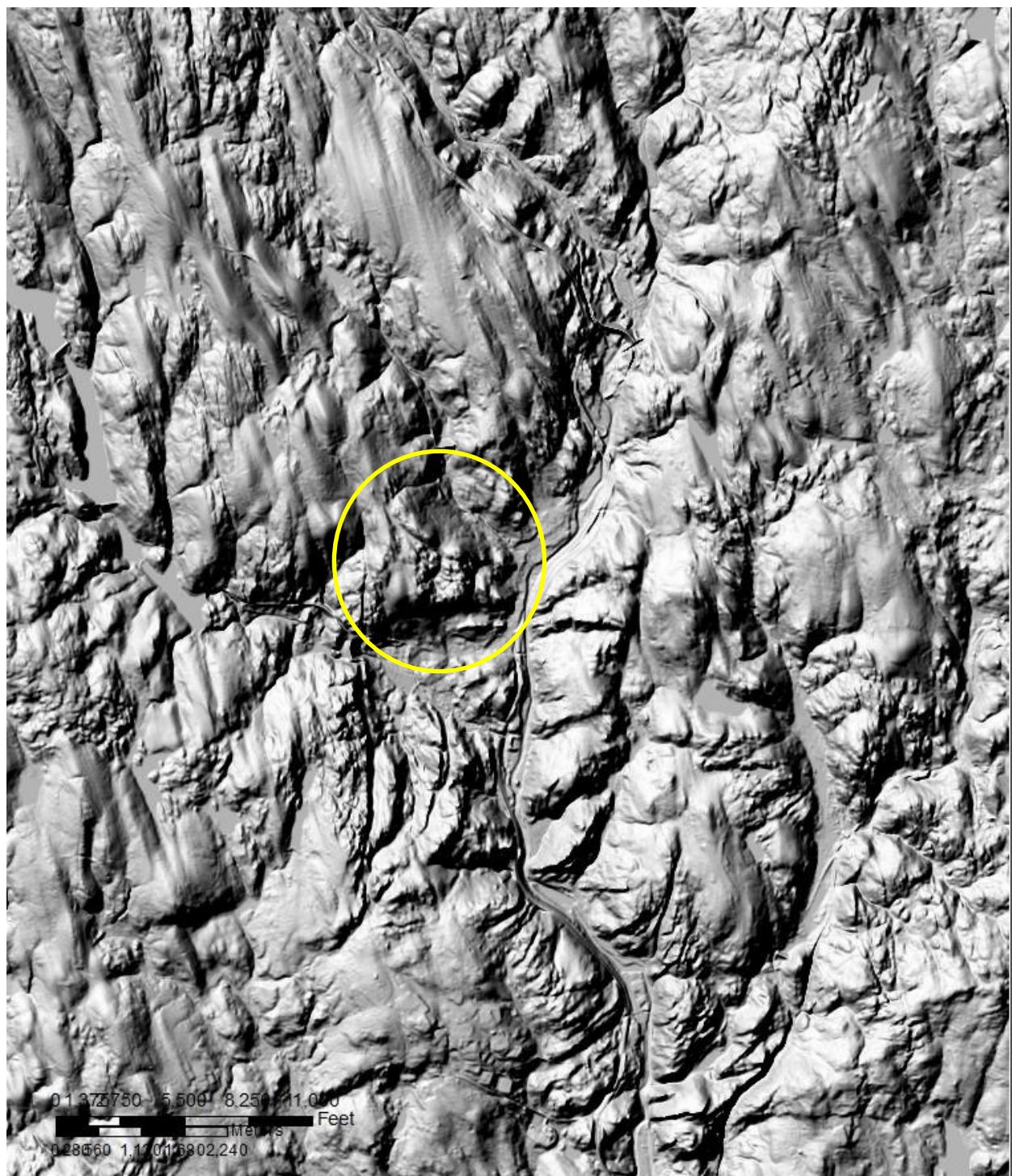


Figure A-13. Hillshaded digital elevation model of Naugatuck River valley showing area surrounding Dug Road Open Space (yellow circle). Note smooth and rough appearing areas. (A mile is 5280' so scale is a bit longer than two miles.)

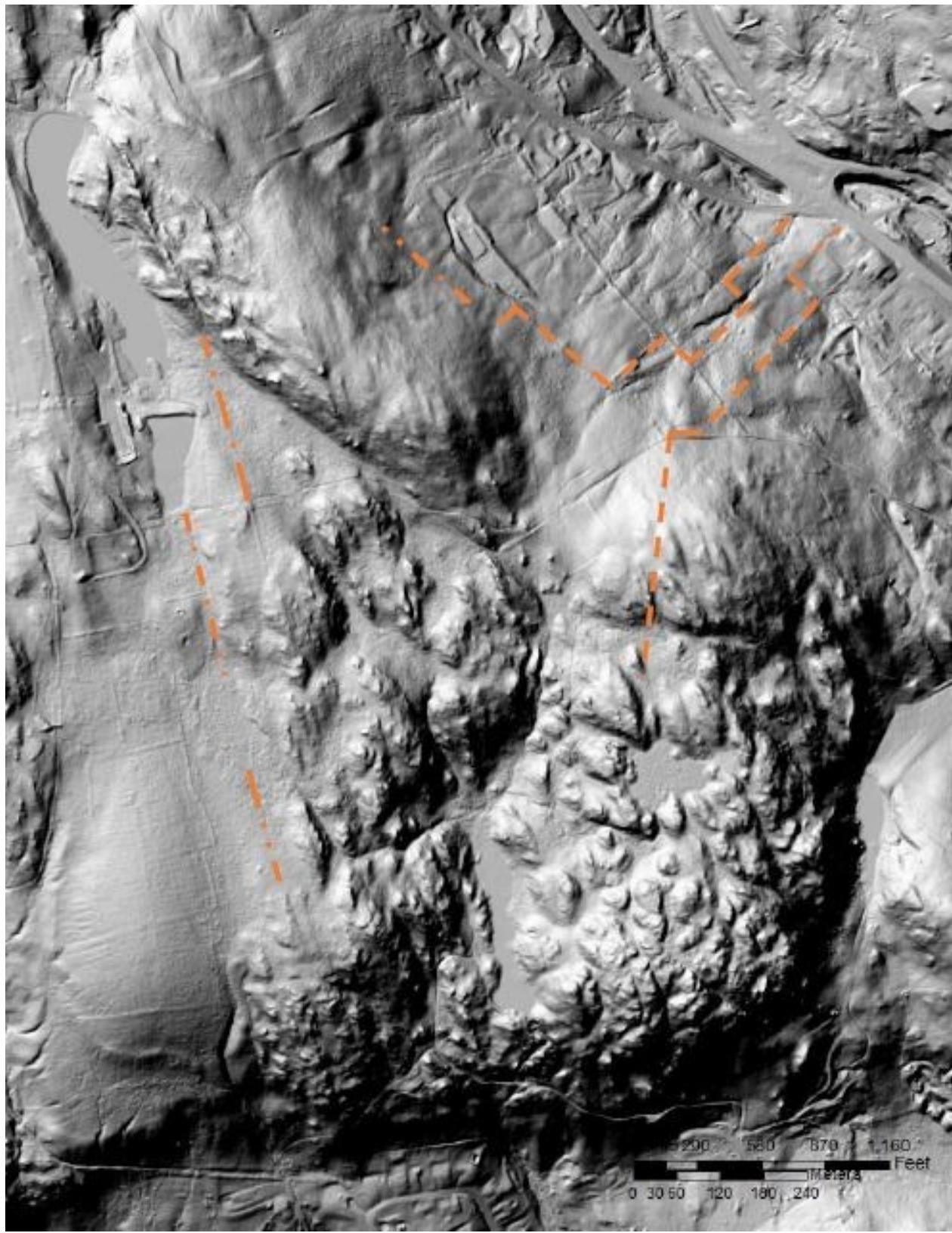


Figure A-14. Hillshaded DEM showing some boundaries (approximately located) of the open space parcels. Most of area can be characterized as rough appearing and field inspection indicates that numerous bedrock outcroppings are found. Glacial soils are mostly thin over the area.

fine to coarse grained biotite mica, quartz, plagioclase, and garnet. In places, muscovite mica is also found in the schist. The schist is gray to dark gray, a function of how much black biotite mica is present. Schistose rocks have a pronounced grain to them that results from the alignment of the micas. In most places the mica alignment is also parallel to compositional boundaries and thus is thought to represent original bedding of the sedimentary shales and fine-grained sandstone precursors (protoliths) of the schist. No compositional trends were noted during our brief field excursion. The Straits Schist is Siluro-Devonian in age (about 400 million years).

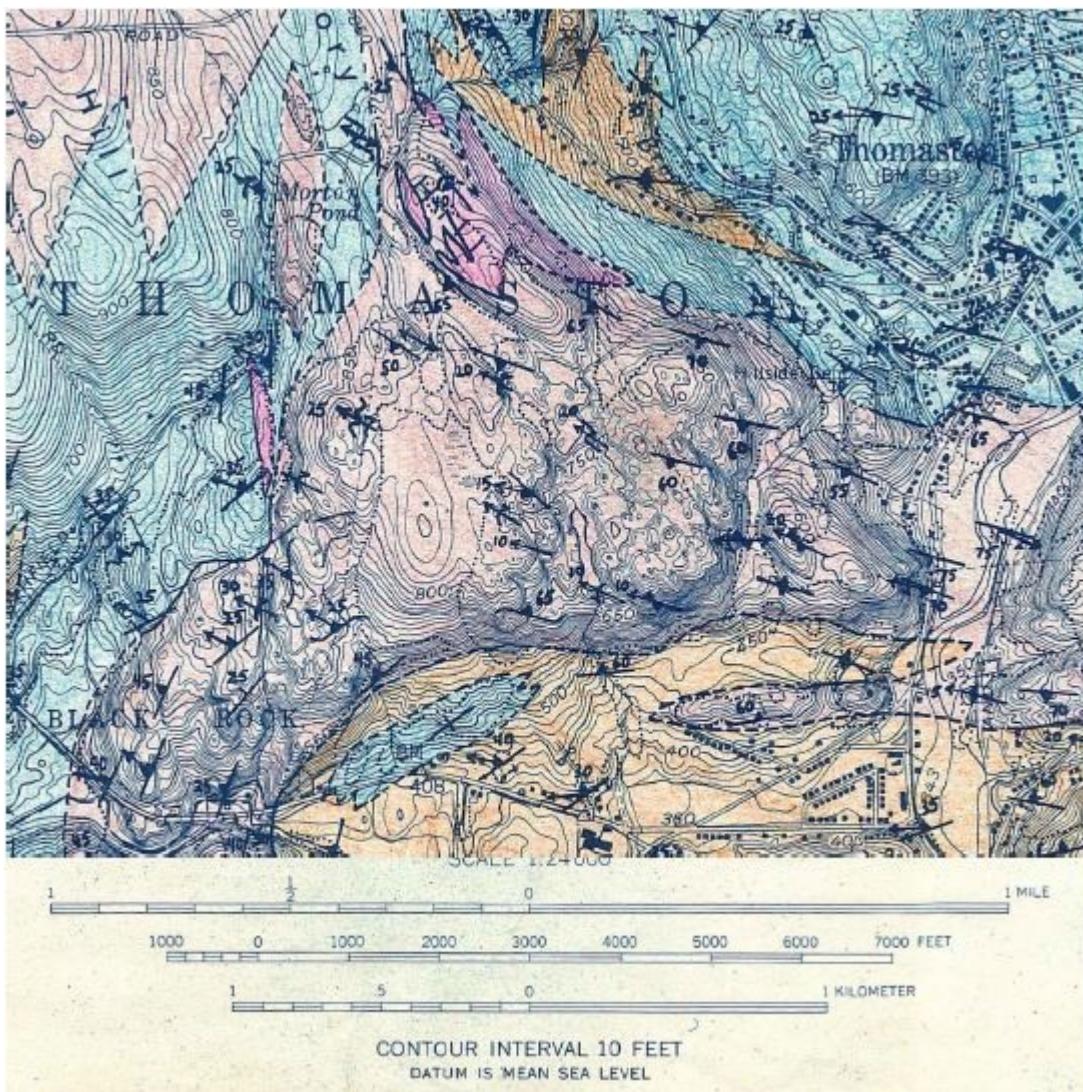


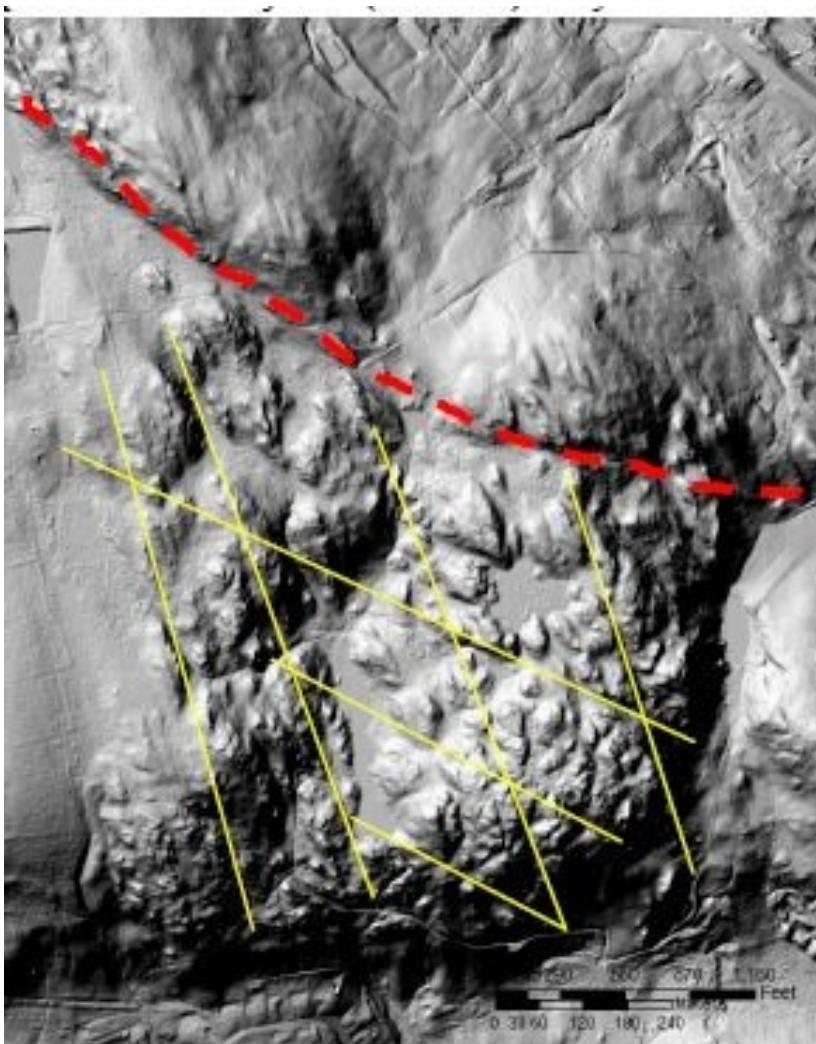
Figure A-15. Bedrock geological map of that portion of the Thomaston Quadrangle containing the open space parcels. Area colored Blue is underlain by the Ordovician Ratlum Mountain Schist (formerly called Hartland Formation); orange area is underlain by Ordovician Collins Hill Formation; area colored tan underlain by the Straits Schist, and area colored pink underlain by Nonnewaug Granite. Symbols indicate orientation of foliation (long line shows orientation of the "grain" or layering of the rock).

The schist is intruded locally by pods of pegmatite. The pegmatite is a coarse grained igneous rock composed of quartz, feldspar (both K-spar and plagioclase), and muscovite mica. Garnets may be found in some places and biotite mica also may be a minor constituent. The pegmatite oc-

curs in small irregular shaped bodies and short dikes (veins) in the schist and the schistosity (grain of the rock) of the Straits Schist is in most places contorted around the pegmatite pods. The pegmatite is thought to form during the metamorphic event when the increased heat to which the rocks were subjected caused incipient melting (or dissolution into the hot metamorphic fluids). When the rocks cooled the partially melted rock crystallized to the coarsely crystalline pegmatite.

Nonewaug Granite was not observed on the field trip. It consists of fine-to medium-grained quartz, k-feldspar and mica.

The topography contains numerous short valleys and ridges that appear aligned and a prominent low escarpment (see Figure –A17). The aligned valley and ridges are likely formed by prominent set of joints (fractures) may be seen in Figure 5: one oriented approximately 340-160 degrees and the other approximately 285-105 degrees. The low escarpment may be a fault line. Rocks along the fault line tend to be severely fractured along a narrow width and hence erode more easily.



The practical significance of the fractures is that groundwater resides in fractures in the bedrock. A boring that penetrates more fractures is likely to yield more water. If the town is interested in developing a water supply, siting a water well in a valley will likely produce a higher yielding water well because the valley is formed because the rock in the valley is naturally fractured. A well sited in a hollow where two sets of joints intersect would anticipate highest yield. Except in the northeastern portion of the parcel, glacial soils are thin or nonexistent (Warren, 1972). Thick glacial soils are mostly outside the open space area (see Figure 13 and 14: areas of smooth appearing topography have thicker glacial soils). Stratified sand and gravel deposits are found in the valley bottoms but probably none lap onto the open space area.

Figure A-17. Hillshaded DEM showing alignment of valley and ridges (yellow lines) in the open space area and a low escarpment (red dashed line) likely formed along an ancient fault line. The valleys are most likely caused by enhanced erosion of fractured rock along joint traces.



Figure A-18—Photo of Dug Road Trailroad into property -Source: J. Davies, CTRC&D 2017

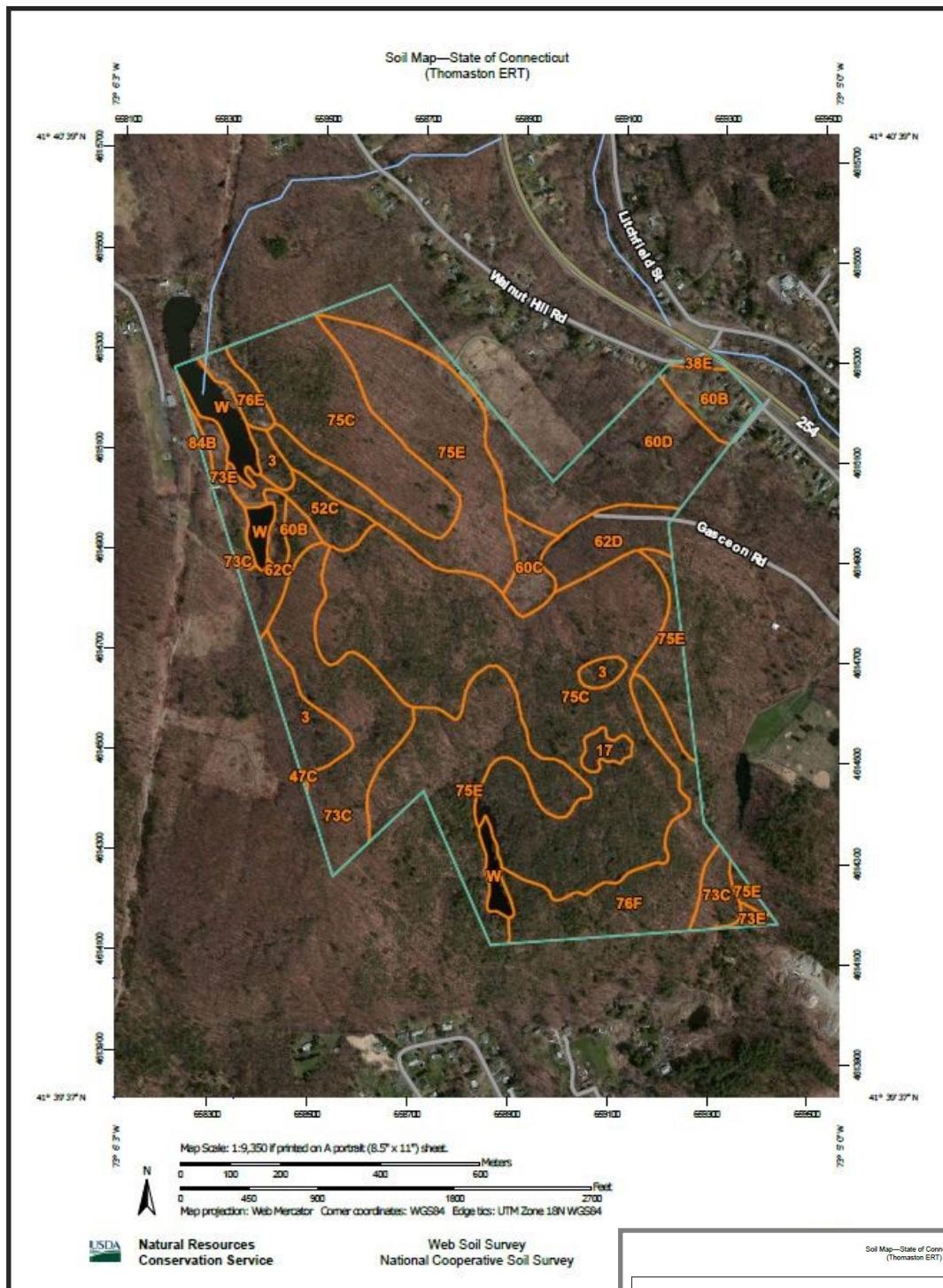
Soils and Wetlands - *Excerpt Christopher P. Allan, LandTech, LLC, Registered Soil Scientist, Certified Professional Wetland Scientist*

The landforms and surficial deposits of the Thomaston Open Space parcels are largely related to the underlying bedrock and the effects of glaciation. At least twice in the last Pleistocene Epoch, Connecticut has been impacted by glacial ice sheets that have advanced from the north and subsequently retreated. The general direction of ice sheet advance in the subject area was from northwest to southeast. The direction of ice advance is reflected in the landforms and topography of the Thomaston Open Space parcels, including the northwest / southeast alignment of streamlined elongated hills (drumlins), ridges, and valleys with associated watercourses and wetlands.

The surficial materials overlying bedrock at the site are broadly defined as glacial ice-laid deposits (till). Glacial ice-laid deposits were derived directly from the ice and consist of nonsorted, generally nonstratified mixtures of grain-sizes ranging from clay to large boulders. The matrix of most tills is predominantly sand and silt, and boulders can be sparse to abundant.

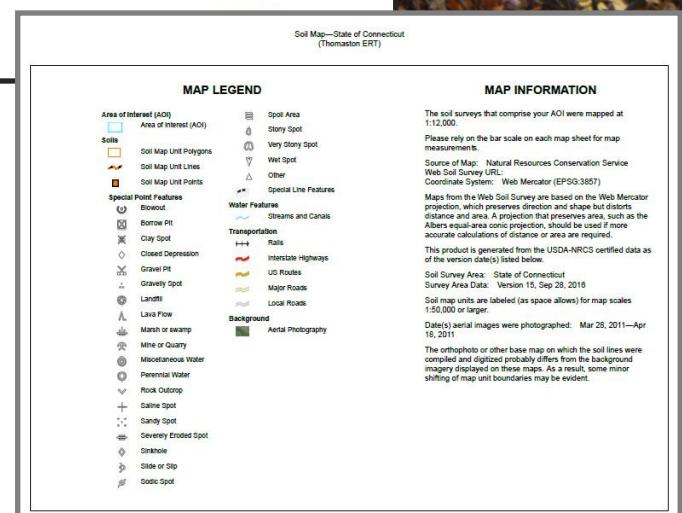
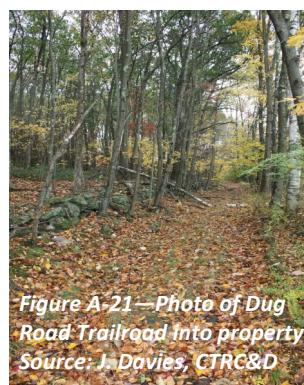
Till blankets the bedrock surface in variable thicknesses. The site's till deposits are characterized as "thin till". These are areas where till is generally less than 10-15 feet thick and includes areas of bedrock outcrop where till is absent. It consists predominantly of upper till; loose to moderately compact, generally sandy, and commonly stony material.

The soils parent materials are identified as Melt-out Till-Shallow and Moderate to Bedrock. Melt-out till is material deposited, as the ice beneath the glacier slowly melts away. It is less consolidated and friable than lodgement till. Soil depth to bedrock is less than 20 inches (shallow) or ranges from 20 to 40 inches (moderate).



Figure

A-19 Soils Map
See larger map and evaluation
in full report in Appendices



Map Unit Legend

State of Connecticut (CT600)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, 0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony	7.0	3.0%
17	Timakwa and Natchaug soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes	1.3	0.6%
38E	Hinckley loamy sand, 15 to 45 percent slopes	0.5	0.2%
47C	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	0.1	0.0%
52C	Sutton fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	4.3	1.8%
60B	Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	5.7	2.4%
60C	Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	3.3	1.4%
60D	Canton and Charlton soils, 15 to 25 percent slopes	22.2	9.4%
62C	Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	3.5	1.5%
62D	Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes, extremely stony	6.4	2.7%
73C	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	19.9	8.4%
73E	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes, very rocky	3.7	1.5%
75C	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	84.0	35.4%
75E	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes	49.8	21.0%
76E	Rock outcrop-Hollis complex, 3 to 45 percent slopes	2.3	1.0%
76F	Rock outcrop-Hollis complex, 45 to 60 percent slopes	16.0	6.7%

Soils

Soil is defined as the unconsolidated mineral or organic material at the Earth's surface that, in contrast to the underlying parent material, have been altered by the interactions of climate, relief, and living organisms over time. The Soil Survey of the State of Connecticut identifies named soil series that have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness and arrangement. The soil series descriptions can be used to determine the suitability and potential for specific uses such as on-site sewage disposal, agriculture, etc.

The appended soil map (Figure A-19) shows the general location of soil map units. The site's dominant soil map units are described below.

Upland Soils

The site's upland soils are found along the hills and ridges and are derived from parent material consisting of glacial till. Most of the upland soils are shallow to bedrock and contain bedrock outcroppings (typically along the tops of hill or ridges where soil has been scoured away by glacial action). Shallow bedrock is the main limitation to development associated with these soils.

Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams (60B, 60C, 60D, 62C, 62D) - consists of well drained soils formed in loamy melt-out till. They are nearly level to very steep soils on moraines, hills, and ridges. The Canton and Charlton soils are very deep to bedrock. There are few limitations to development other than steep slope areas. Erosion is a moderate hazard during site construction activities.

Charlton-Chatfield complex (73C, 73E) - consists of well drained soils formed in loamy melt-out till. They are nearly level to very steep soils on moraines, hills, and ridges. The Charlton soils are very deep to bedrock, while the Chatfield soils are moderately deep (20-40") to bedrock. Outcrops of bed-



Figure A-22 – Photo of Dug Road Trail road into property. Source: J. Davies, CTRC&D 2017

rock and inclusions of glacial till soils with shallow bedrock (Hollis fine sandy loam) are found within these mapped areas. Shallow depth to bedrock and bedrock outcrops are limiting factors for the placement of on-site sewage disposal systems. Droughtiness associated with thin soil layers can limit vegetation growth. Erosion is a moderate hazard during site construction activities.

Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex (75C, 75E) - consists of well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in a thin mantle of loamy melt-out till. They are shallow moderately deep to bedrock. They are nearly level to very steep upland soils on bedrock-controlled hills and ridges. Outcrops of bedrock are common. Shallow depth to bedrock and bedrock outcrops are limiting factors to development. Droughtiness associated with thin soil layers can limit vegetation growth. Erosion is a moderate hazard during site construction activities.

Rock outcrop-Hollis- complex (76E, 76F) - consists of well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in a thin mantle of loamy melt-out till. They are shallow to bedrock. They are nearly level to very steep upland soils on bedrock-controlled hills and ridges. Outcrops of bedrock are common. Slope, shallow depth to bedrock and bedrock outcrops are limiting factors to development. Droughtiness associated with thin soil layers can limit vegetation growth. Erosion is a very severe hazard during site construction activities.

Sutton fine sandy loam (52C) - The Sutton series consists of very deep, moderately well drained loamy soils formed in melt-out till. They are nearly level to strongly sloping soils on hills, low ridges, and ground moraines, typically on footslopes, lower backslopes and in slight depressions. These soils are often transitional areas between uplands and wetlands and are typically near the base of slopes adjacent to wetland areas where groundwater is shallow. These areas can be wet during winter and spring and after storm events. The shallow groundwater is the main limitations for building suitability and subsurface sewage disposal systems.

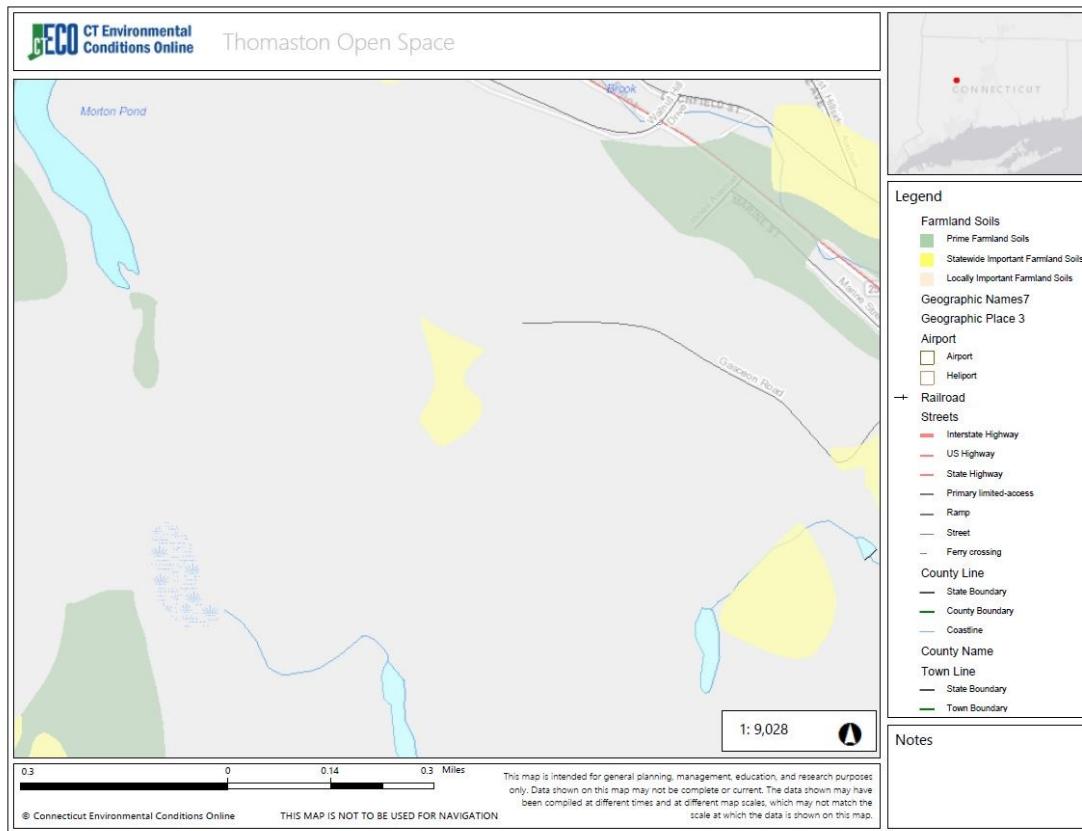


Figure A-23—Farmland Soils—Source: CTECO—Research—C.. Allan

Wetland Soils

The site's wetland soils are found within low lying areas between ridges and along the waterways that drain through and adjacent to the site. Wetlands consisting mainly of mineral soils of glacial origin are found in seasonally saturated areas in low lying areas and along sloping waterways. One wetland in the southeast corner of the open space contains postglacial swamp deposits within a relatively large landscape depression that is ponded for extended periods allowing for the accumulation of decayed plant matter and the formation of organic deposits or peat and muck.

Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman soils (3) - consists of very deep, poorly drained and very poorly drained loamy soils formed in till. They are nearly level or gently sloping soils in drainageways and low-lying positions on hills. These soils are typically seasonally saturated at or near the ground surface and contain areas of shallow ponding. The seasonal high water table and ponding are major limitations for most uses.

Timakwa and Natchaug soils – consist of very deep, very poorly drained soils formed in woody and herbaceous organic materials over sandy and loamy deposits in depressions on lake plains, outwash plains, till plains, moraines, and flood plains. These soils are typically ponded at depths of 0 to 12". These soils have major limitations for most uses due to ponding and subsidence.

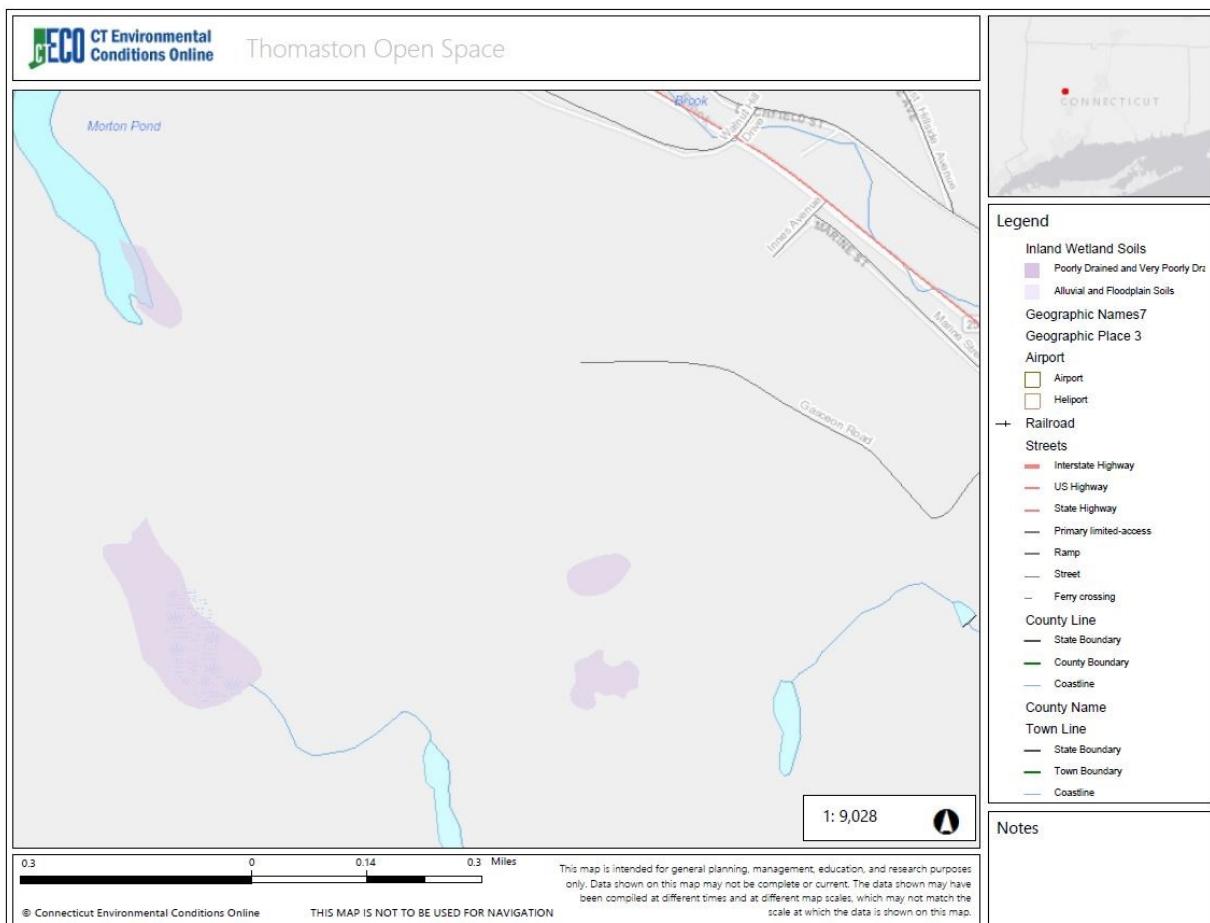


Figure A-24 - Wetland Soils on Property /Source: CTECO—Research - C. Allan

Soil Based Recommendations for Site Uses

Community Garden – Portions of the site that were previously cultivated are identified as Prime Farmland (see attached Farmland Soils map). These are areas with soils that have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oil seed crops, and are also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, range-land, forestland, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields or crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming practices.

Trails –The existing foot trail connecting the property to Marine Street traverses some moderately steep slopes and is eroded in areas from past motorized vehicle use and the concentration of stormwater runoff. The placement of water bars to divert stormwater runoff off of the trail can also be used to prevent the concentration of runoff along the trail to prevent soil erosion. Use of the trails by motorized vehicle should be prohibited to protect the trails from erosion.

Wastewater Treatment/Disposal – Any future plans for establishment of public restrooms would require the construction of an on-site subsurface sewage disposal system. Much of the site contains soil with one or more limitations (shallow bedrock, shallow groundwater) that would require detailed soils evaluation and engineering design. The most suitable soils for sewage disposal are those identified as Canton and Charlton fine sandy loams and Charlton-Chatfield complex.



Figure A-25 Dug Road Property— East View from property hill top

Archaeology- *Excerpt Brian D. Jones, State Archaeologist/see full report found in Appendix A*

The Thomaston Conservation Commission requested an environmental review analysis by a CTRC&D team of volunteers for a professional analysis of environmental conditions of the passive open space property (approximately 165 acres) and adjacent parcels totaling approximately 180 acres located adjacent to Dug Road and Walnut Hill Road. The Commission also sought advice regarding the optimal siting of a community garden and for a potable water supply to service the active recreation area, the community garden, and those using the passive open space area. The following review provides an assessment of the archaeological and historical resources and potential of the property.

The project area consists primarily of rugged upland terrain. No archaeological sites are documented within or very near the open space property (Figure A-27). Those that appear within the general vicinity are located to the southwest, primarily along Branch Brook. These sites represent a variety of small, primarily undated Native American sites (green triangles), with hints at Late Archaic occupation (ca. 5000 years ago). These sites were identified during a 1965-1966 archaeological survey conducted by Bert Salwen, a pioneer in Northeast Archaeology. The historic period sites (blue squares) reflect an archaeological survey of 1997 conducted for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (by the Public Archaeology Laboratory of Rhode Island) that identified a series of insignificant 20th century activity areas. Because very few archaeological surveys have been conducted in Thomaston, these documented site locations should be understood to reflect a very small subset of the actual archaeological and historical resources of the town. Native American sites dating to as long as 12,000 years ago are to be expected along the Naugatuck River and its tributaries where resources were most focused. Historic agrarian residential sites are expected to be positioned along old roads adjacent to prime agricultural land, while Thomaston's important 19th century industrial sites will were located along waterways, especially at bedrock nick points that lent themselves to damming (Figure A-28).

The project area itself falls outside of these zones of expected high archaeological sensitivity. The



Figure A-26— 1879 Map of Thomaston— O.H. Bailey Publishers, Boston

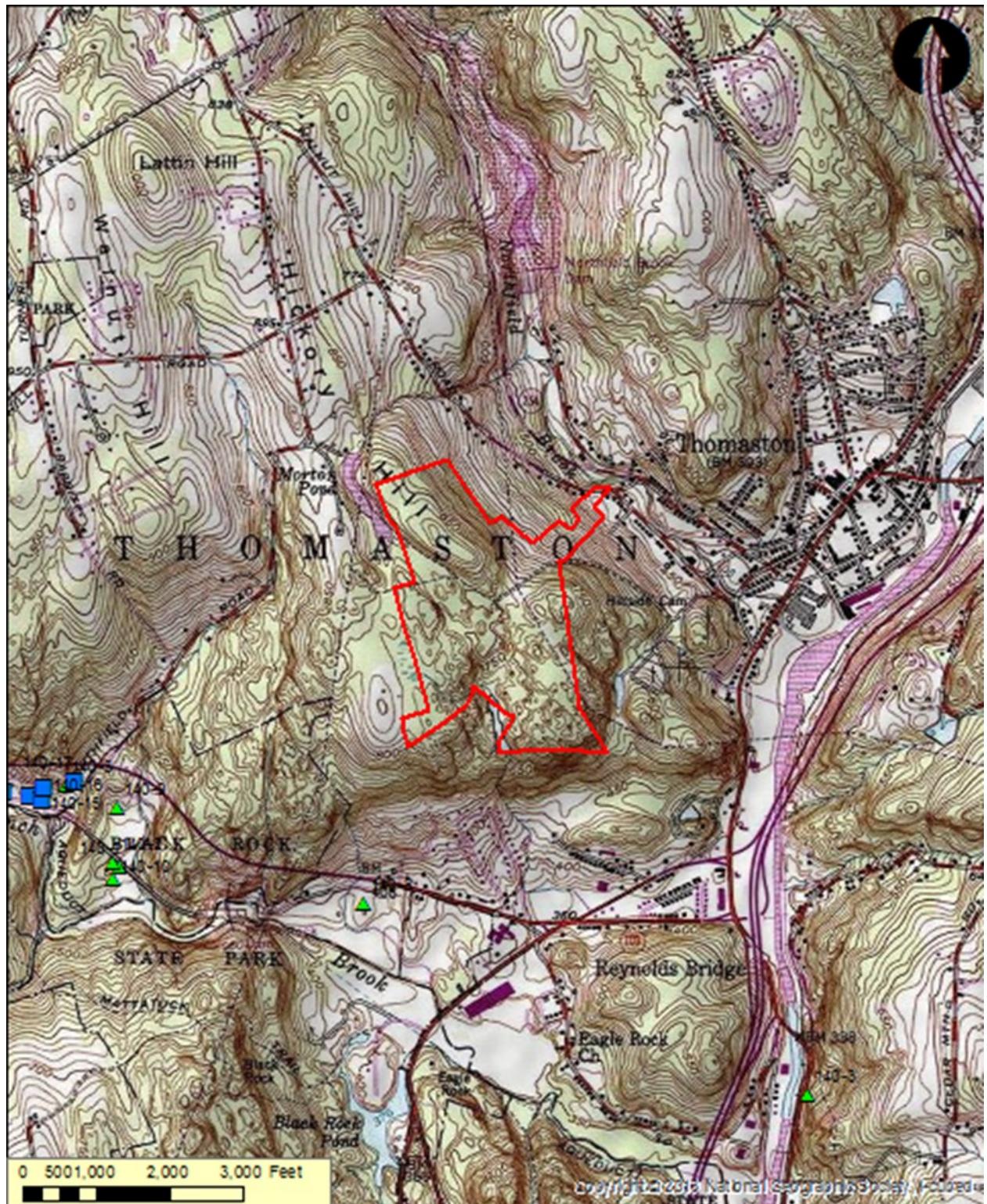


Figure A-27 Dug Road Open Space project area (red) on USGS 1:24000 topographic map. Documented archaeological sites are clustered to the southwest along Branch Brook as a result of two archaeological surveys that occurred here.



Figure A-28: Hopkins 1854 Litchfield County map with superimposed project area. The project area is noted as “Plymouth Hollow” the original name for Thomaston before its incorporation in 1875. Note that the map projection is skewed to the north. The S. Smith house seen in the lower portion of the map would actually fall to the south of the project area.

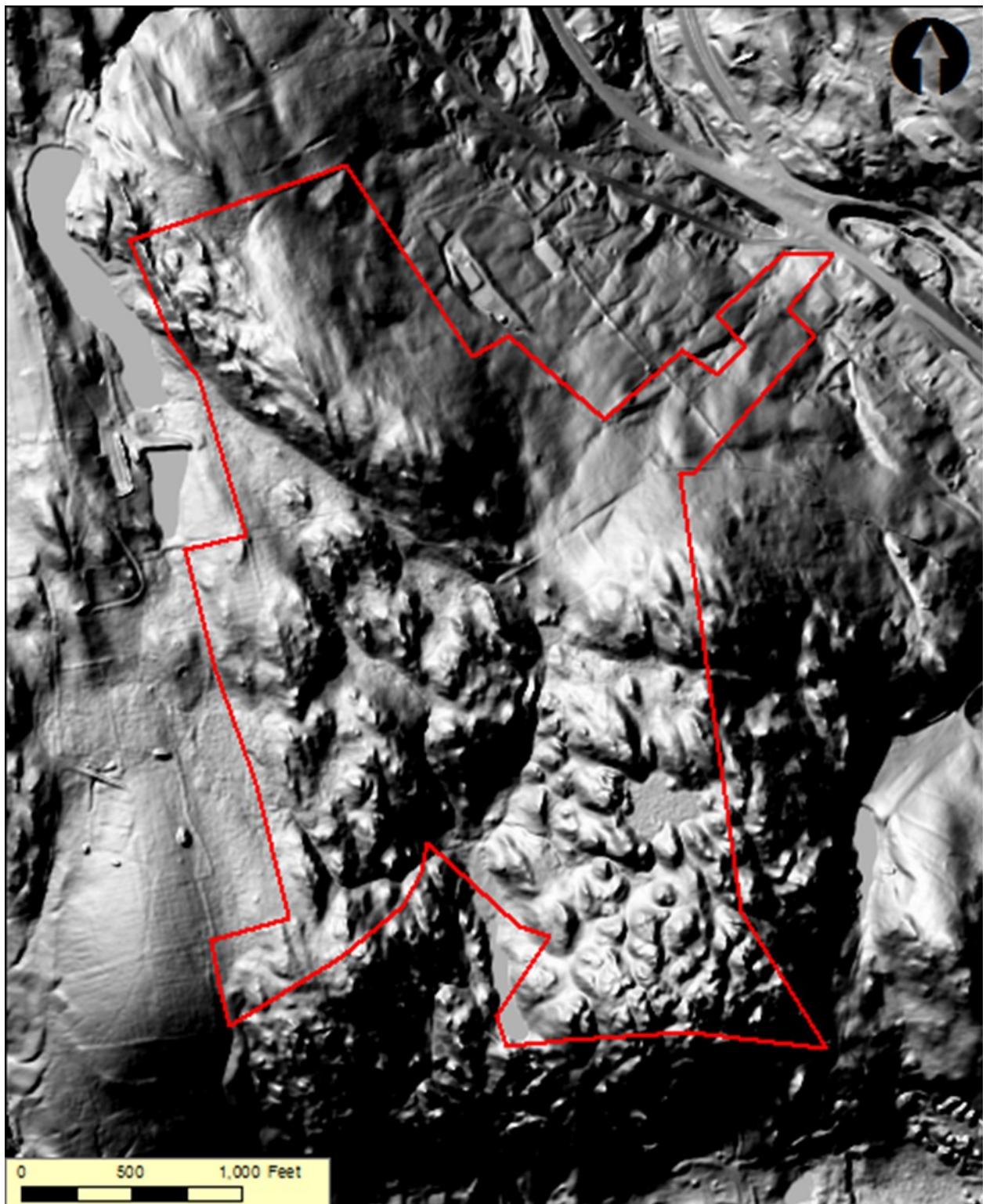


Figure 29: Lidar imagery of the project area. The landscape is dominated by glacially smoothed hills. Evidence of agricultural use (stone fence lines) is primarily restricted to the less rugged easternmost section, with some evidence of a possible orchard on the west central edge.

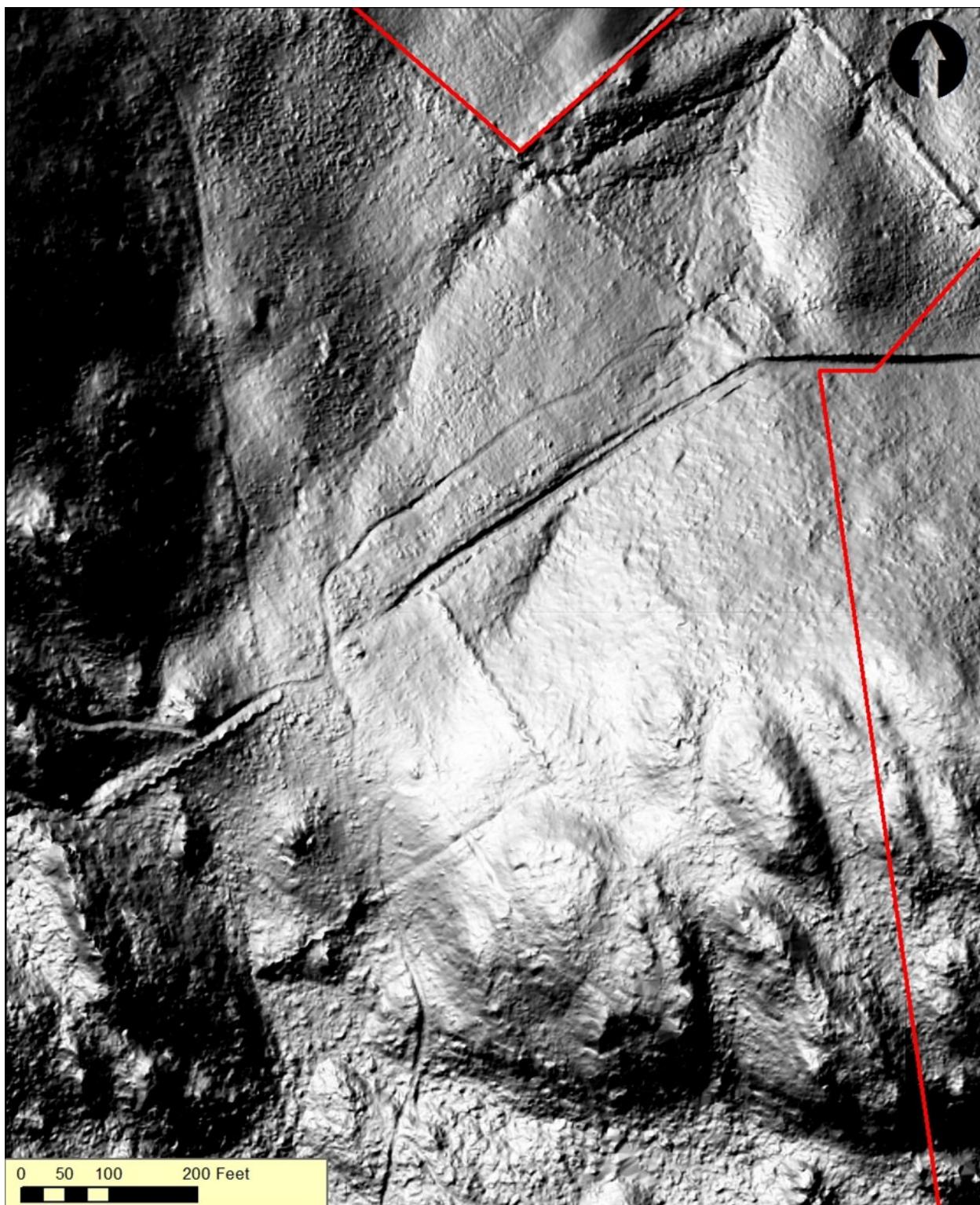


Figure 30: Lidar features in eth central portion of the project area. Visible is an old road system, a more recent forest trail, and stone fence lines. A square feature along the old road bed is suggestive of a cellar ruin should be more closely investigated. The round features to its south is more likely a utility line structure.

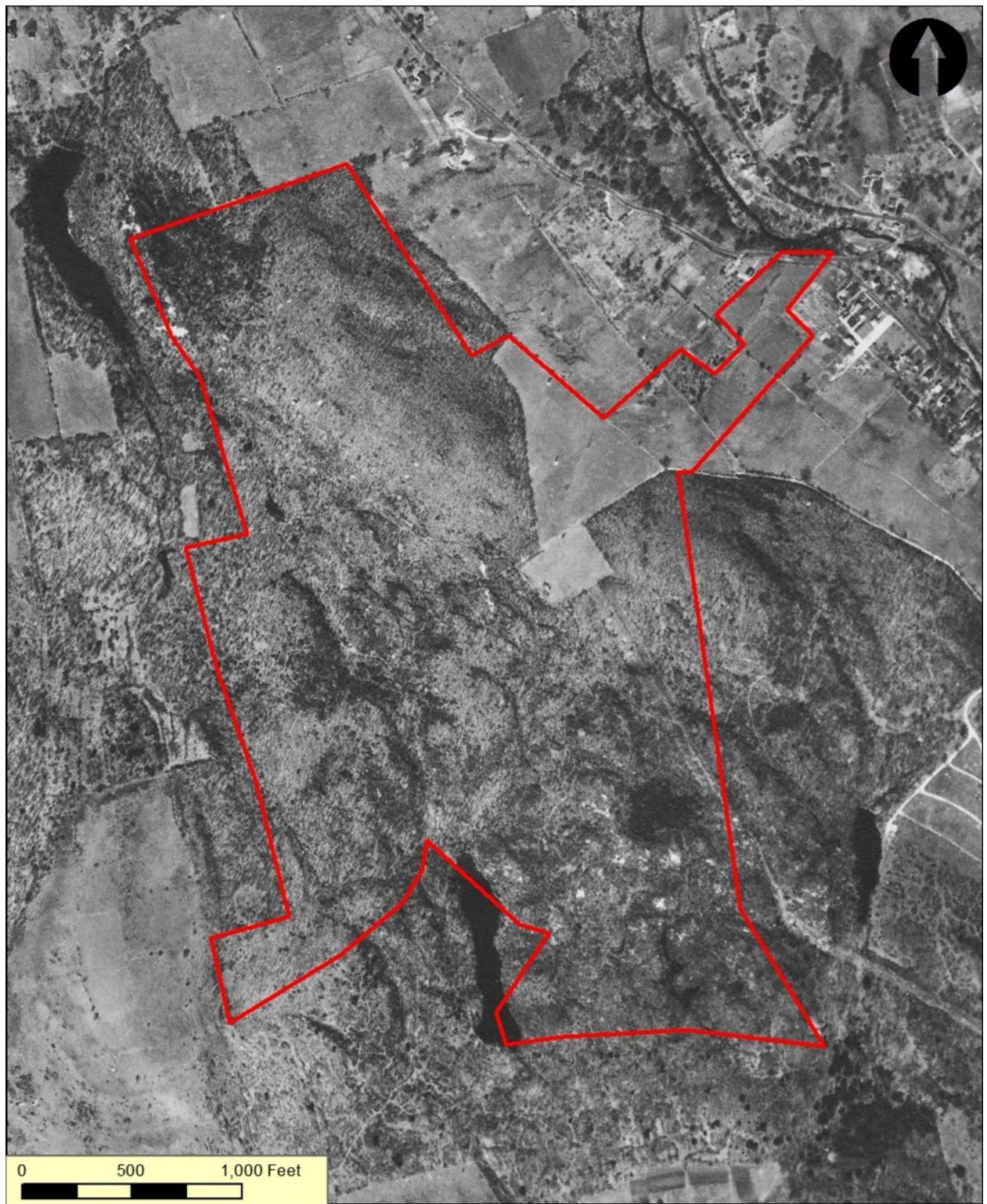


Figure 31: 1934 Fairchild aerial image of the project area highlighting the early 20th century forested condition with some agricultural land still in use to the east. The path of the utility line can be seen within the eastern edge of the project area.

bedrock of the area is underlain by schist – not considered to be an economically important raw material to Native American people. Soils are formed on meltout till, often shallow to the underlying bedrock. These typically stony soils are not considered to have high archaeological sensitivity without the presence of another important nearby resource. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, this upland area would have been primarily used as a resource extraction zone supporting short-term visits focused on hunting (especially of deer) and gathering forest resources such as hickory nuts and other mast foods. Some steep-walled areas within the open space may hide small rock shelters that attracted human use during resource-gathering activities. Only a small one-acre area of the project closest to Northfield Road contains prime agricultural land. This area, along Northfield Brook could have attracted Native American horticultural use, and is probably the most archaeologically sensitive portion of the entire project area.

Historically, the area was likely originally used for timber harvest. Lidar imagery (Figure A-29) does not indicate the presence of charcoal kilns, possibly suggesting the land had already been largely cleared for use as pasture by the early 19th century. Only one possible residential site ruin was visible in the Lidar imagery examined for this review. Figure A-30 highlights this small central area where a small stone-fenced yard includes a possible foundation ruin positioned along an old road. This location should be examined more closely. Since no houses are noted on the mid-19th century map, if this is a house ruin, it was likely abandoned during the early 19th century and is worth preserving. The area is crossed by a utility line in this location, and this may have impacted this location, and could even have produced the feature itself.

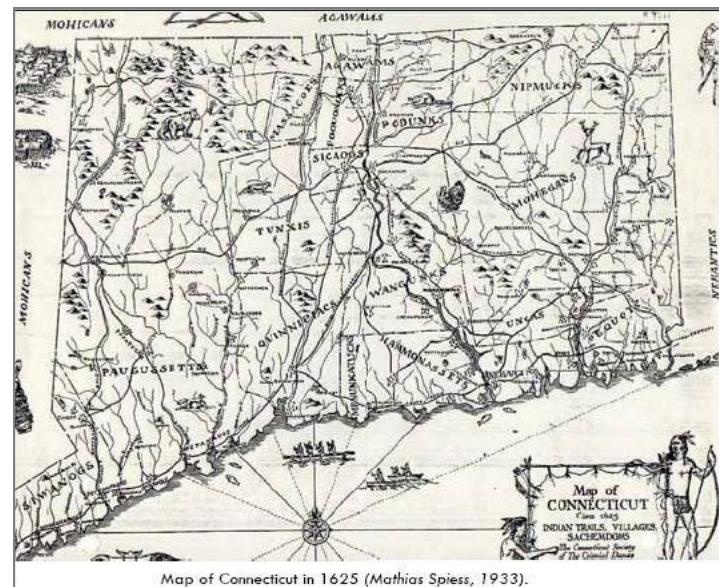


Figure A-32 Vintage Map of Native American Territories

1934 Fairchild aerial image of the project area highlights its early 20th century forested condition with some agricultural land still in use to the east (Figure A-31). The new path of the utility line can be seen within the eastern edge of the project area.

Archaeology Based Recommendations

The Dug Road Open Space area represents an important, well-preserved upland environment in the town of Thomaston. No archaeological sites have been documented within the open space, but this is believed to be a reflection of a lack of professional archaeological survey, rather than an absence of archaeological sites. Sensitivity for the presence of early Native American sites is relatively low, and land-use is expected to have been limited largely to resource extraction, leaving behind small sites with a limited range of artifacts and features. Nonetheless, sites certainly exist on the property. Some may be located in small rockshelter located along steep ridges with good line of site over game movement below.

Small camps and horticultural sites may also exist in the easternmost portion of the project area closest to Northfield Brook. Historic activity is expected to have been focused on the harvest of timber resources, but agriculture occurred in the eastern portion of the project area where evidence of land clearing and management in the form of stone fences is most visible. A possible 19th century house ruin is worth further investigation. This feature, visible on Lidar, lies in the central portion of the project area along an old roadway. The area is close to an existing utility right-of-way that may have impacted it. In sum, while the Dug Road Open Space area has relatively low archaeological potential, it is recommended that areas that may undergo significant ground disturbance be assessed for the presence of undocumented archaeological resources prior to construction.



©2012 RAILROAD MUSEUM OF NEW ENGLAND

Figure A-33 Vintage Postcard of Thomaston Train Station

Transportation, Regional and Local Planning Context

Excerpt Aaron Budris, Senior Planner, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments View full report in Appendix A

Primary Observations and Recommendations

The Dug Road properties provide excellent passive open space opportunities adjacent to the population center in Thomaston. The town should consider improved pedestrian access by extending sidewalks along Meadow and Marine Streets and providing for safe crossing of Route 254 (Northfield Road), allowing access from downtown and transit.

- Consider a formal parking area within Hillside Cemetery or at another location.
- Connect any new trails developed on the property to those already existing on nearby state and federal land, including the Blue Blazed Mattatuck Trail.
- A community garden would fulfill an unmet local need, but vehicular and pedestrian access should be considered.

Background and Parcel Descriptions

The Town of Thomaston has identified land consisting of six parcels for conservation and use for passive recreational uses, and potentially as the location of a community garden. The six parcels, all owned by the town are as follows; MBL 47-01-01 is 99.22 acres as listed by the assessor, 38-03-01 is 44.36 acres, 39-01-04 is 15.92 acres, 54-06-08 is 3.5 acres, 39-01-23 is 2.13 acres and 39-01-05 is 1.99 acres.

The total land area covered by these parcels is 167.12 acres as listed by the assessor. The six parcels are adjacent and four of them (47-01-01, 38-03-01, 39-01-03 and 39-01-03) front Dug Road, AKA Gasceon Road, a paper road that appears to have been a carriage road that is now a rough dirt path that runs roughly east to west from the cemetery on Center Street. Parcel 54-06-08 is land locked between the town owned and privately held parcels. Parcel 39-01-23 is the only parcel of the six with frontage on a town road, Walnut Hill Road, and was proposed as the site for a community garden.

USGS Topographic Map - Dug Road Area

Figure A-34



For planning purposes only.
Delinations may not be exact.

■ Dug Road Property

Sources:
USGS
Parcels: New England Geosystems



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NAUGATUCK VALLEY
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The property is bounded by the Thomaston Fish and Game Club (and by extension Mattatuck State Forest and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Black Rock Dam) to the west, undeveloped land to the north, a mix of undeveloped and residential land to the east and a mix of undeveloped and residentially developed land to the south. The property is currently accessed via a locked gate from Hillside Cemetery, where there is informal parking along a paved road in the cemetery. The Dug Road/ Gasceon Road offers a rough unpaved route to access the property on foot. The property is rugged, and includes a peak in excess of 890 feet within parcel 38-03-01, and numerous hills and outcrops within parcel 47-01-01. The current access point within the cemetery is at elevation 500, so accessing the interior of the site via Gasceon Road requires a steady uphill climb, but offers numerous hiking and passive recreation possibilities.

Land Use and Open Space

All six of the parcels being discussed here are within the Residential RA80A zone which is designated for low density residential development with minimum lot sizes of 80,000 square feet. While residential development may have been possible on the property if not conserved by the town, the steep terrain and lack of a public road would likely have limited development in the near term.

The Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCNV), a predecessor agency of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) published the 2008 COGCNV Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. The accompanying Future Land Use map identified parcel 47-01-01 as Committed Open Space, a portion of 39-01-03 as "Growth Area", and "Community Center" and the remainder of the parcels in question as "Rural Area". It seems that COGCNV was unaware of the plans for the properties as open space at the time and instead, the area was identified mainly as an area for future low intensity residential development indicated by the "Rural Area" designation. Growth areas were identified by COGCNV in part to encourage development in areas where "adequate infrastructure, including the transportation network is available" and to "Discourage large-scale residential, commercial, and industrial development in rural areas". While a small part of 39-01-23 had some potential for more dense development, the majority of the site lacks access and utilities, and was thus more suited to lower residential densities. The forthcoming NVCOG POCD (2018) will reflect the change in future land use on the Dug Road property to open space.

While the entire property may not have been identified for conservation in the 2008 COGCNV plan map, the plan does recommend the conservation of properties for purposes consistent with Thomaston's conservation of it.

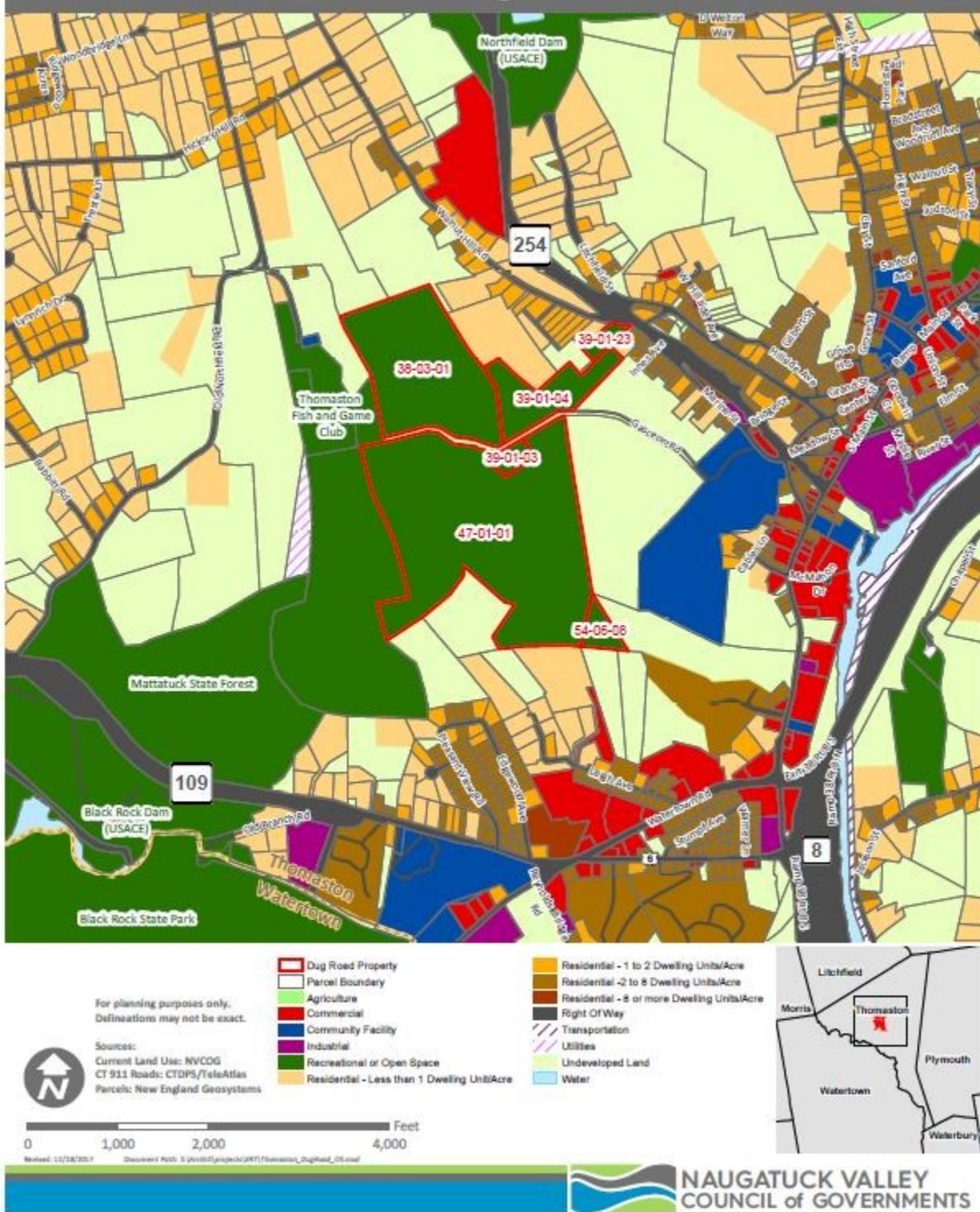
For instance, COGCNV recommendations include the following:

- Encourage activities to identify and preserve important open space areas before they are threatened by development.
- Maximize the benefits of open space by giving priority to: Establishment of greenways (for wetland protection and wildlife habitat), open space connections (including trails and wildlife corridors), and forests.
- Where feasible, encourage creation of:
 - ◊ Multi-purpose trail systems (pedestrian, bicycle, bridle, cross-country ski, as appropriate) that link recreational and open space areas.
 - ◊ Pedestrian and bike paths that link residential, retail, and employment areas.
- Work to coordinate open space preservation with forests, agriculture, and lands with minimum land use impacts.

Conservation of the Dug Road properties (and the activities that they will be used for) does follow these recommendations. Thomaston did identify the preservation value of the property that would have potentially been threatened by development. The town did effectively extend the conserved land in the Mattatuck State Forest/ Black Rock Dam/ Black Rock State Park/ Thomaston

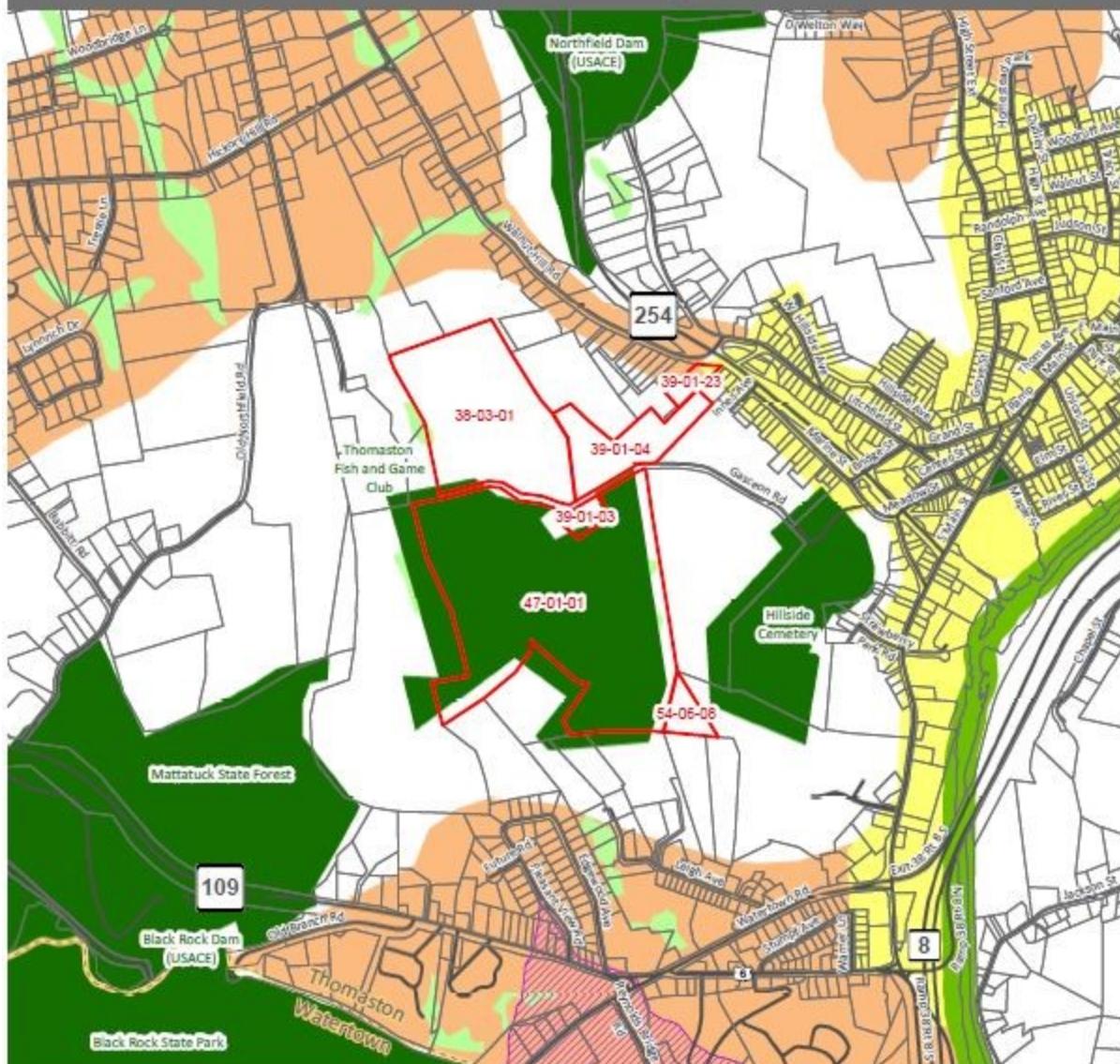
NVCOG Current Land Use - Dug Road Area

Figure A-35



2008 COGCNV Future Land Use - Dug Road Area

Figure A-36



For planning purposes only.
Delinations may not be exact.

Sources:

Future Land Use: COGCNV
CT 911 Roads: CTDPS/TeleAtlas
Parcels: New England Geosystems



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- Dug Road Property
- Parcel Boundary
- Aquifer Protection Area
- Proposed Greenways
- Committed Open Space
- Prohibited Environmental Constraints
- Community Center
- Growth Areas



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Fish and Game Club open space corridor, building on an already large natural area and helping provide habitat for wildlife. The proximity of the property to the Mattatuck State Forest, Black Rock State Park, Black Rock Dam (USACE) offer an excellent opportunity to link the property to other open space areas.

Thomaston has a relatively large proportion of its land area preserved as committed open space. A map of committed open space published by NVCOG, Thomaston Committed Open Space 2017, included all of the Dug Road parcels as town owned open space and estimated that there are 1,906 acres of committed open space in Thomaston, representing 24.5% of the Town's total land area. Only a small proportion, 231 acres or 12.1%, of that preserved land is owned and controlled by the town, however. Thomaston is home to three USACE flood risk reduction dams with dry reservoirs, several large tracts of the Mattatuck State Forest, and a substantial area of public drinking supply watershed property owned by the City of Waterbury, and these state, federal and water company properties make up the majority of the town's open space.

The existing open space properties all offer recreational opportunities to area residents, but the town has very little control of how those properties are managed or how or if they are made available to the public. Black Rock State Park offers picnicking, swimming, fishing, and camping (camping is also available at the adjacent privately owned Branchbrook Campground). The USACE offers hiking, fishing and hunting at Black Rock Dam; hiking, fishing and picnicking at Northfield Dam; and hiking, fishing, hunting, picnicking, off road motorcycle riding, and remote control aircraft flying at Thomaston Dam. The town already offers swimming, hiking, fishing, picnicking and ball fields at Nystroms Pond. Since there is already an abundance of recreational opportunities nearby, the town should focus on filling any unmet needs. The town is considering the development of a community garden on parcel 39-01-23, which would fill an unmet need. A community garden so close to the population center of downtown would provide excellent access to gardening opportunities for renters and a population that may not otherwise have a place to garden. The town might also consider other activities that may not exist elsewhere in town. For instance, well developed interpretive hiking trails that educate users about local history, geology or natural resources, or letterboxing opportunities could draw new hikers to the property. By allowing permitted group camping, the town could provide "back-country" camping experiences for scouts or other community groups close to home. Or, a dedicated mountain bike trail system or mountain bike events could draw cyclists to the area.

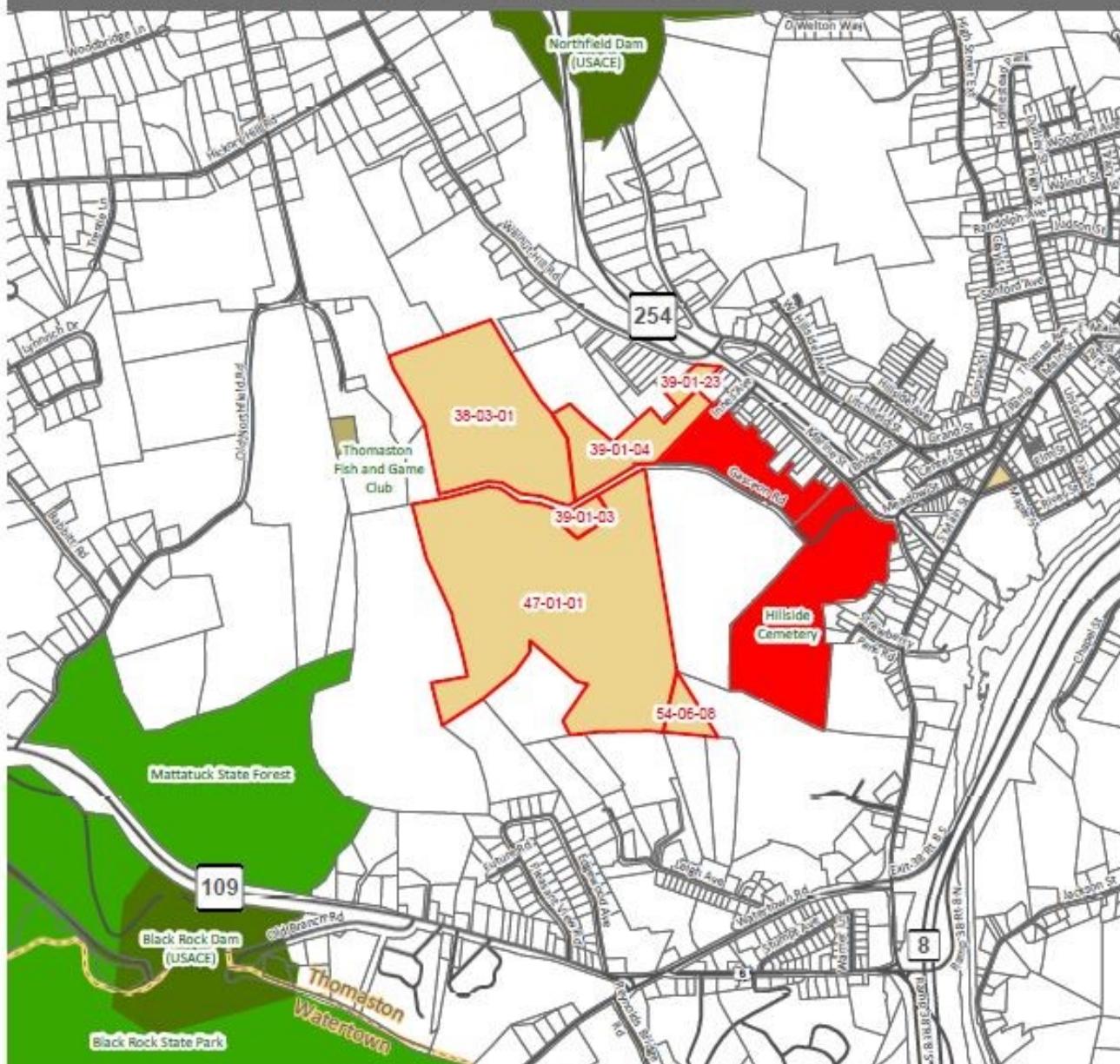
Connecting trails and open space properties is listed as a priority in both the regional and local Plans of Conservation and Development, and would certainly benefit residents. Preserving the properties in question effectively extends an undeveloped open space corridor to the doorstep of downtown Thomaston. The Dug Road property offers the only easy non-motorized access from downtown and the population center of town, meeting the needs of residents without a personal motor vehicle. The property abuts Thomaston Fish and Game Club property, which in turn abuts a parcel of the Mattatuck State Forest, Black Rock Dam, and Black Rock State Park. There are trails on many of these properties, and there is an excellent opportunity to connect existing trails to those that may be developed on the Dug Road property. The Mattatuck Trail, a 42 mile Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) Blue Blazed Hiking Trail traverses through Black Rock State Park and Black Rock Dam (USACE) properties within a mile of the Dug Road properties. The town should consider working with CFPA to create a connection to the Mattatuck Trail.

Transportation/ Site Access

The Dug Road open space parcels offer an excellent opportunity for passive outdoor recreation very close to downtown and a dense residential population, which none of the other open space in town can offer. Currently the property is best accessed using a personal motor vehicle by parking in Hillside Cemetery. The close proximity to downtown and residential areas, though, makes pedestrian access possible by a large portion of Thomaston residents. A sidewalk inventory conducted by NVCOG in 2014 identified sidewalks on Meadow Street just across Route 254 from Hillside Cemetery. There is not currently a safe way for a pedestrian to access the site from the sidewalk network, however. From the end of the sidewalk on Meadow Street, a pedestrian would need to cross State Route 254 (6000 ADT, posted speed limit 40 mph) without the aid of a crosswalk or warning to motorists. In order to improve access by pedestrians, the town should pursue the extension

Committed Open Space - Dug Road Area

Figure A-367



For planning purposes only.
Delineations may not be exact.

Sources:
Committed Open Space: NVCDG
CT 911 Roads: CTDPs/TeleAtlas
Parcels: New England Geosystems



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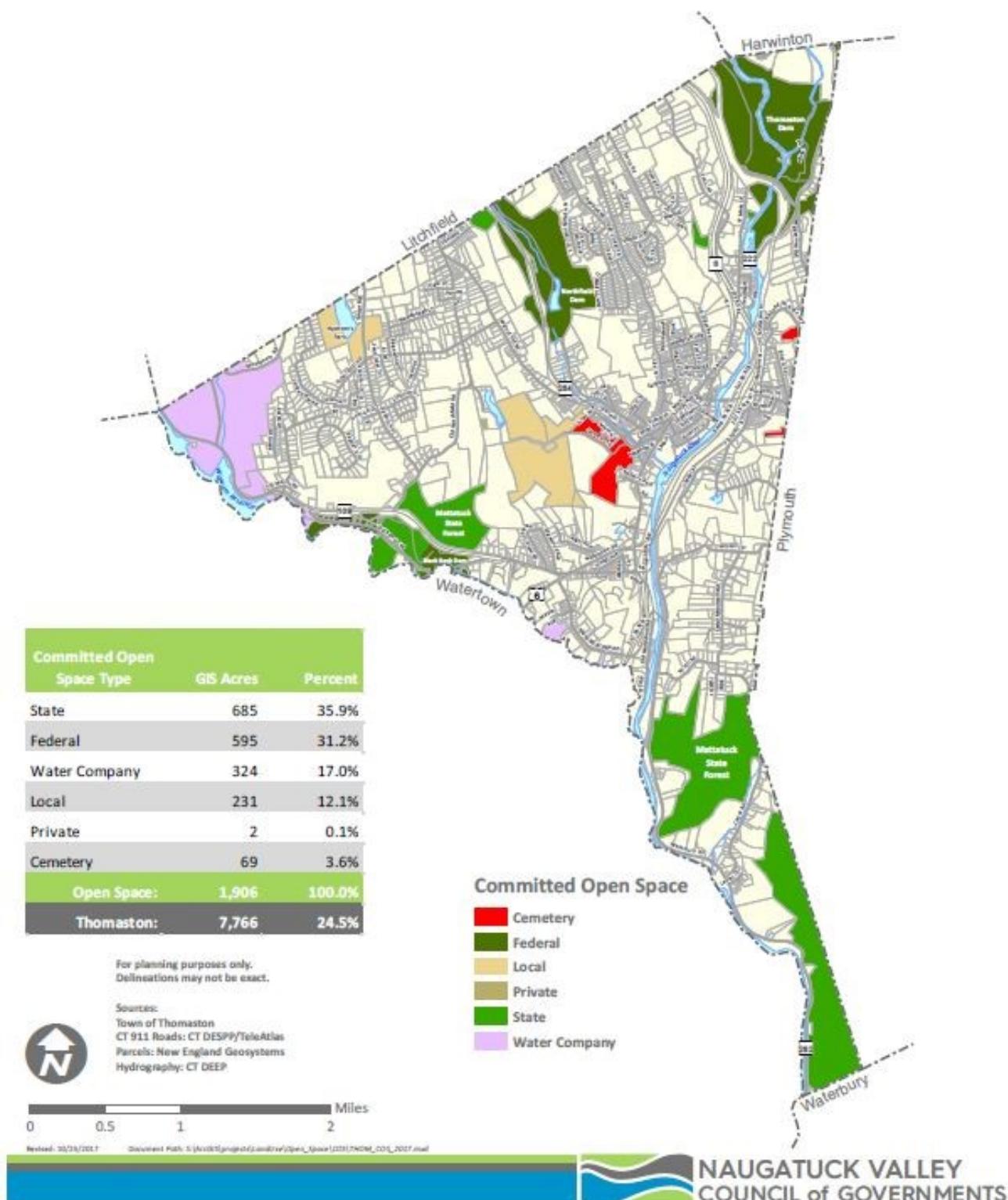
- Dug Road Property
- Parcel Boundary
- Committed Open Space
- Cemetery
- Federal
- Local
- Private
- State



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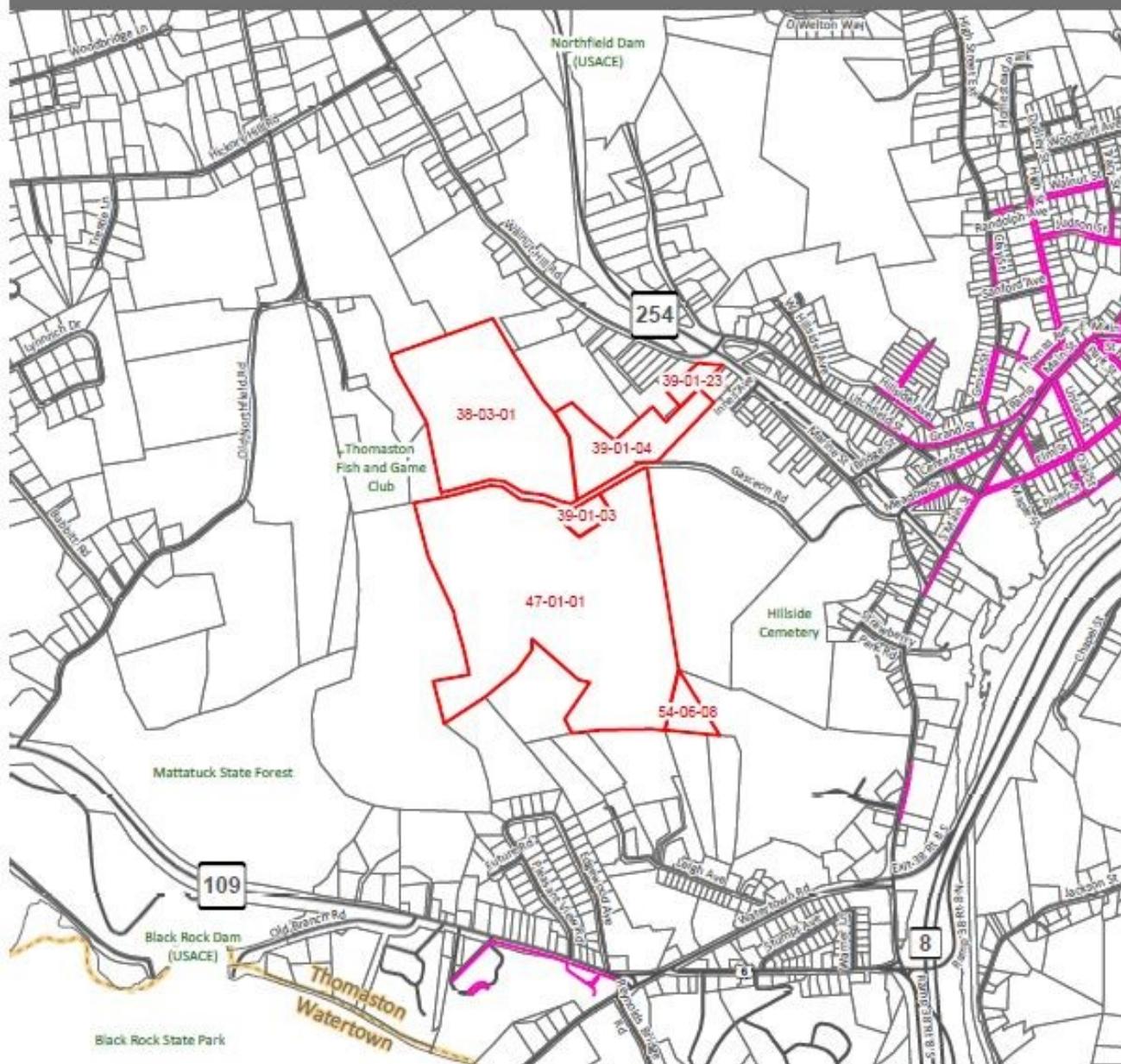
Thomaston Committed Open Space 2017

Figure A-38



Sidewalks 2014 - Dug Road Area

Figure A-39



For planning purposes only.
Delineations may not be exact.

Sources:
Sidewalks: NVCDG
CT911 Roads: CTDPS/TelosAtlas
Parcels: New England Geosystems

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of the sidewalk on Meadow Street all the way to the Route 254 Intersection, and the addition of a sidewalk on Marine Street and into the Cemetery. The town should also consult with the CT DOT regarding a pedestrian crosswalk to ensure safe crossing of Route 254.

The rugged nature of the property does not lend itself to handicapped accessibility, but ensuring safe access to the downtown sidewalk network will open use of the property to all able bodied residents within walking distance. It would also eventually allow access to visitors and public transit riders with limited transit service to downtown Thomaston on the CT Transit route 450X Torrington/Waterbury Flyer that stops at Thomaston Town Hall, a short walk from the property.

The town might also consider a more formal parking area either within Hillside Cemetery or at an alternative site to allow more vehicles to park in a more organized manner. Improvements made to the property will increase usage that may lead to issues including shoulder rutting, damaged stones, blocked access, etc. There is potential for a negotiated access through the Thomaston Fish and Game Club property. The town should also consider a parking area for the potential community garden area on Walnut Hill Road, although the proximity of the property to the intersection of Walnut Hill Road and Route 254 may be a traffic safety concern. Access from Innes Avenue may be an alternative.

Several state and federal funding programs are in place that can help municipalities fund pedestrian access and safety projects, including the CT DOT Community Connectivity Program, the CT DOT administered Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) FAST Act Transportation Alternatives Program, and the CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program. The Community Connectivity Program and Recreational Trails Program are directly solicited to municipalities by the state, while the federal TAP projects are selected through a competitive process overseen by the COG. Federal and state funding varies in amount and availability, therefore the town should plan for improvements with design so as to be competitive for available grant funding.

State Planning Context- *Jeanne Davies, AICP Planner, CTRC&D* –Excerpt of additional maps are provided in Appendix A

The State Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) provides a birds-eye view of recommended land use statewide. It is a guidance document for state agencies and works in collaboration with regional and local plans of conservation and development. The maps provided below are provide guidance only. In and outside of the focus areas for priority funding areas and priority conservation areas, it is also advisable to identify potential conservation-open space acquisition based on site specific data and ecological findings on site. While the Dug Road Open Space parcel is not specifically designated as a priority conservation area in its entirety, review of site data, the site's proximity to a other priority conservation areas, along with site specific resource findings may categorize this open space property as one of potential state significance.

The primary context by which the Dug Road property is classified on the 2013 State Plan of Conservation and Development "Locational Guide Map" (see Figures A40 and A41) is for eligibility for state funding through loan or grants. The Dug Road property is uniquely categorized under several categories as depicted on the Locational Guide Map. Areas are classified as conservation areas and balanced priority funding areas. Due to the property's proximity to downtown Thomaston and utility services provided in that area, the property is also categorized as a level 5 priority funding area.

Priority Funding Areas are delineated based on conditions that exist at the Census Block level, which is the smallest geographical unit delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Census Blocks are statistical areas which in Connecticut are typically bounded by visible features, such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad lines. Priority Funding Areas are classified by Census Blocks that include:

- Designation as an Urban Area or Urban Cluster in the 2010 Census
- Boundaries that intersect a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass-transit stations
- Existing or planned sewer service from an adopted Wastewater Facility Plan Existing or

- planned water service from an adopted Public Drinking Water Supply Plan
- Local bus service provided 7 days a week

Conservation Areas Conservation Areas are delineated based on the presence of factors that reflect environmental or natural resource values. In contrast to Priority Funding Areas, which are based on man-made Census Blocks, Conservation Areas are based on existing environmental conditions, such as soils or elevation, which oftentimes have no visible boundaries. In contrast to Priority Funding Areas, which are based on man-made Census Blocks, Conservation Areas are based on existing environmental conditions, such as soils or elevation, which oftentimes have no visible boundaries. Conservation Areas include any one or more of the following factors:

- Core Forest Areas Greater than 250 acres based on the 2006 Land Cover Dataset
- Existing or potential drinking water supply watersheds
- Aquifer Protection Areas
- Wetland Soils greater than 25 acres
- Undeveloped Prime, Statewide Important and locally important agricultural soils greater than 25 acres
- Category 1, 2, or 3 Hurricane Inundation Zones 100 year Flood Zones
- Critical Habitats (depicts the classification and distribution of twenty-five rare and specialized wildlife habitats in the state)
- Locally Important Conservation Areas (based on data authorized/submitted by municipalities)

Protected Lands category includes lands that have some form of restriction on development, such as permanently protected open space or property in which the development rights have been acquired, are classified as Protected Lands. In addition, this may include, where data is available, Class I or II Water Company Owned Lands, since the development of such property is strictly regulated by the Department of Public Health. Dug Road

Undesignated Lands on the LGM are typically rural in nature and lack the criteria necessary for being delineated as either Priority Funding Areas or Conservation Areas.

Local Historic Districts are established and administered by the community itself to help ensure that the distinctive and significant characteristics of each district are protected, by having local preservation commissions review architectural changes for compatibility.

RECOMMENDATION

To access state funding or grants, the Conservation Commission should work closely with the town's Planning and Zoning Commission and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments to strategize funding improvements to the property (sidewalks, bus service) and within the property (potable water installation, wastewater options, and improvements to the community garden area).



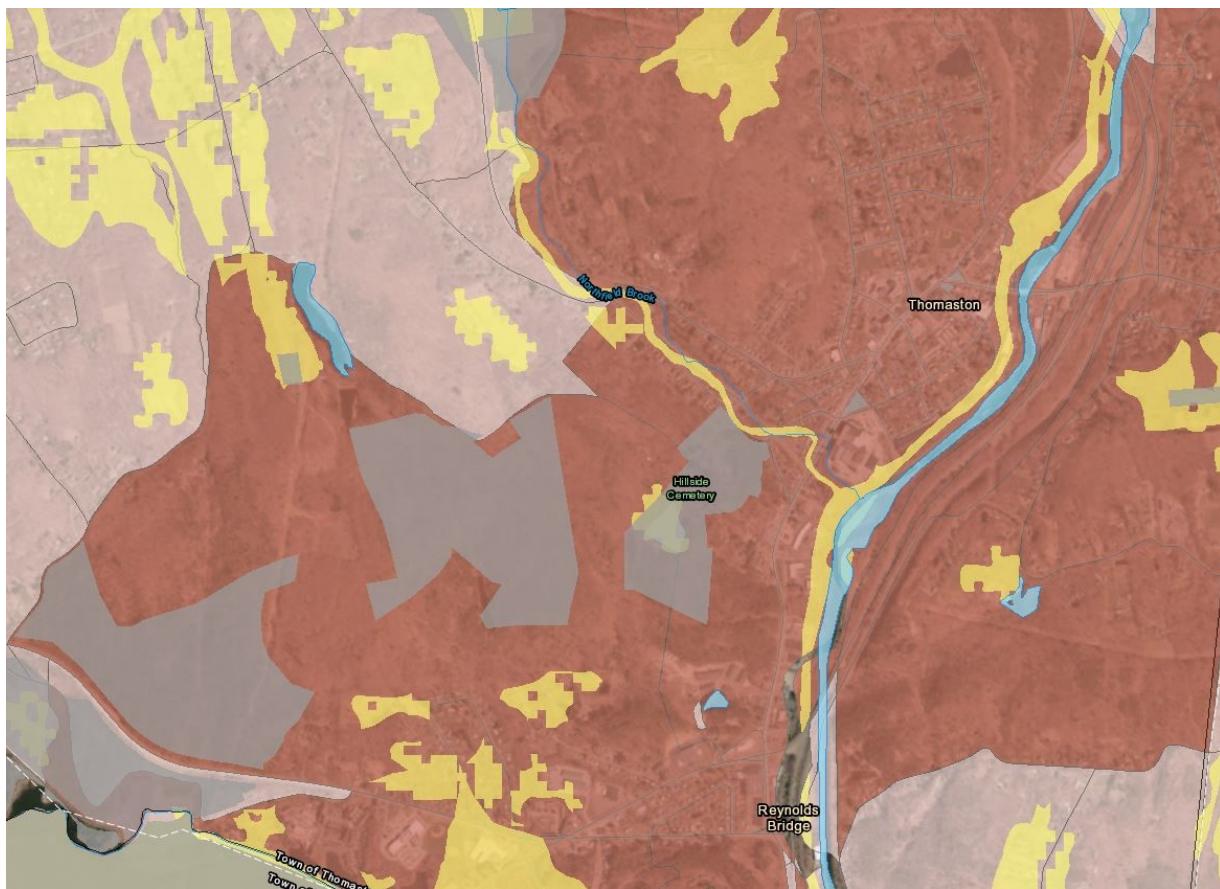


Figure A-40—CT POCD Interactive Map—Focus Area—Dug Road, Thomaston, CT

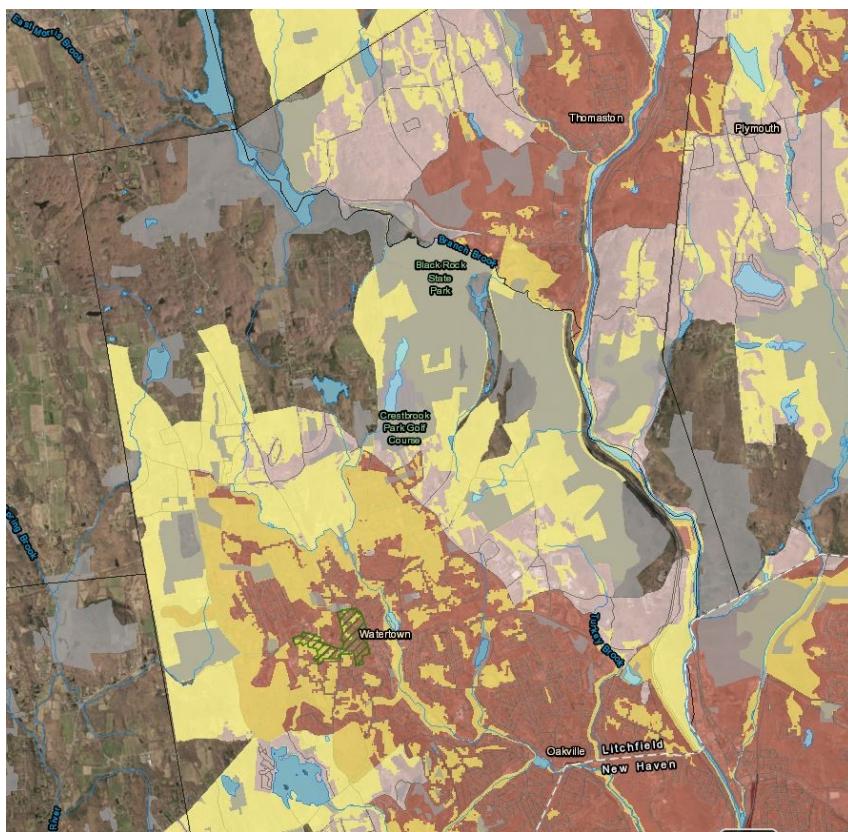


Figure A-41—CT POCD
Interactive Map—
Thomaston Area, CT

LOCAL COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING

Cordalie Benoit, Community Garden Specialist Connecticut Community Garden Association

Recommendations for the creation of a community garden in the corner of the property which fronts on Northfield Rd at Walnut Hill Road.

This parcel is an ideal location for a community garden. It is on the edge of the dense residential population area of the town. There will likely be many families interested in participating in a community garden because although most houses are on generous lots, the topography and geology of the town is such that most yards are steep and multileveled and many have ledge making them hard to garden.

The site is gradually sloped with what appears to be an old farmed area with deep soil. It is L-shaped and is trisected by an intermittent stream. The site lends itself to a threefold treatment.

Treatment for property and soil reclamation

First treatment:

The part of the site closest to the road to the south of the intermittent stream would be ideal for a community garden. It is now covered with goldenrod and some brambles.

Because of the slope the clearing of the site should be done in stages and sections to avoid erosion. Maybe some goats could be brought in to help with the clearing. Their work would be a fun educational opportunity.

The beds for the gardens could be terraced and the paths between them should be meandering. If available, fieldstones would be an excellent way to define the beds.



Figure A-42 - Example of Terraced Community Garden for Walnut Hill Road, Thomaston, CT



Figure A-43 - Example of Terrace Garden for Walnut Hill Road, Thomaston, CT



Figure A-44 —Area for potential community Garden—Adjacent Open Space at Walnut Hill Road Source: J. Davies 2017



Figure A-45—Intersection of Walnut Hill Road— Access to Potential Community Garden Site: Source: J. Davies 2017

Second treatment:

The balance of the site closest to roads on the other side of the stream would make an excellent pollinator demonstration garden and pollinator meadow. The garden can be begun by editing invasive plants from the site and adding milkweeds, composites and other native field flowers if not already found growing there.

Third treatment:

The wand of the L is the largest section of the site. It would be a wonderful location for an orchard. This could be an educational resource and source of food for the community. There are grants available for the trees and guidance on how to care for them from The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) see <http://www.ftpf.org/apply.htm>

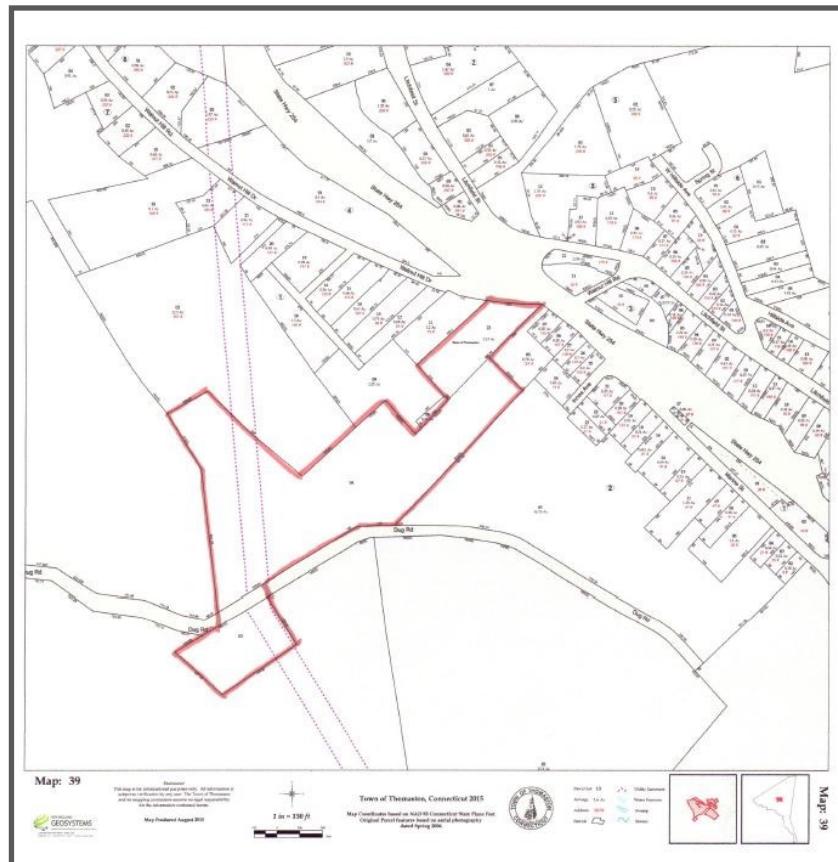


Figure A-446—Property for Potential Community Garden, Thomaston, CT



Figure A-47—Example of Community Garden—Terraced with On Site Materials



LOCAL PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY AND POTABLE WATER

*Richard Izzo, Environmental Analyst 2, Source Assessment and Protection Unit,
Connecticut Department of Public Health*

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) was invited by the CTRC&D Environmental Review Team (CTRCDERT) to provide an analysis of potable water supply feasibility for the open space property located adjacent to Dug Road and Walnut Hill Road in Thomaston, Connecticut. CTRCD-ERT staff provided background materials including aerial site maps, topographic maps, wetlands maps and other available reports for review.

BACKGROUND

The Thomaston Conservation Commission has proceeded with an environmental review analysis by a Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (CT RC&D) team of volunteers for a professional analysis of biological conditions of the 165 acre passive open space property located adjacent to Dug Road and Walnut Hill Road in Thomaston. In addition, the Thomaston Conservation Commission seeks advice on potable water supply planning for the active recreation area, the community garden, and as a rest location for hikers/campers utilizing the open space area.

WATER SUPPLY FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

Any onsite potable water supply well will be required to be compliant with the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) sections 19-13-B51(a) through (l) and RCSA sections 25-128-33 through 25-128-64. If the potable well is classified as a public water

system, then it will also be required to be compliant with Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) section 16-262m.

The following summary is intended to provide guidance to the Commission on what to be aware of when seeking approval for a new public water supply and should not be construed as an application review. It is recommended that the Commission utilize the services of a professional engineer who is experienced in public water system development and design.

1. Before a decision is made to develop an on-site well, the opportunity for feasible interconnection with a community public water system should be explored. The Connecticut Water Company (CWC) Naugatuck Region, Thomaston System (PWSID# CTI 400011) provides public drinking water to a nearby section of the town of Thomaston and currently has a service area approximately 1,000 feet from the subject parcel.
2. If interconnecting with an existing community public water system is determined not to be feasible, then the Commission should fill out and submit a Public Water System Screening Application Form to the DWS. The Screening Form will be evaluated and a decision based upon the information provided will be transmitted to the Commission. If it is determined that the Dug Road Open Space will be a public water system, then the Commission will need to obtain documentation that CWC is unable to provide the parcel service or a recommendation from the Western Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) for approval of the system (CGS section 25-33 i). These processes could be carried out concurrently.
3. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is required to develop a new public water system. The application forms and instructions may be found on the DWS website: www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater and clicking on Forms/Applications found on the left hand side of the page, and then clicking on Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
4. The Commission should take note of the following observations that were made from the materials provided to the ERT:
 - a) It is recommended that the Commission consult with the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) early in the process in regard to the proximity of private drinking water wells. The TAHD may also have historical water quality monitoring data for area wells.
 - b) The water supply well must be protected from surface wash.
 - c) The Commission should ensure that pathways are designed in such a way that dogs will not be passing within lead-distance of the water supply well.
 - d) Potable toilets should be located at least at the maximum sanitary setback from the proposed water supply well. They should be located such that any spills would not impact the source of public drinking water.
 - e) Pesticide and fertilizer applications should be prohibited within the maximum sanitary setback from the water supply well.
 - f) The Commission indicated that the potable water supply may also be used for a potential community garden. The Commission should be aware of the potential for cross connections contaminating the drinking water supply.
 - g) The Commission should be aware that if this public water system is developed, it will become a water company with the responsibility to maintain the safety of the water supply. The DWS Fact Sheet: [Introduction to the Transient Non-Community Program](#) contains an overview of public water system responsibilities.



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