

The Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact

We, the undersigned chief elected officials, on behalf of our municipalities, recognize that:

1. The sparkling rivers and expansive forests of the Natchaug River Basin are a treasure in The Last Green Valley, respected and valued by people within the basin and beyond. Towns in the watershed share a common interest in working to preserve the quality of the streams, their interconnected corridors and natural areas, and the basin that encompasses them;
2. The Fenton, Mount Hope and Natchaug Rivers and their tributaries are officially designated state greenways of Connecticut, identified by the watershed communities for their natural, historic and cultural importance;
3. The basin contains a rich diversity of plants and animals in its forests and streams and supplies drinking water to over 65,000 people. The Natchaug River is recognized for its outstanding water quality and the basin contributes remarkably clean water downstream through the Shetucket and Thames Rivers to Long Island Sound; and
4. The ecological health of the watershed is vital to the economic livelihood, physical and social well-being of those who live in, work in and visit our communities. It determines the quality of our drinking water, enhances property values, provides protection from storms and floods, offers recreation and education opportunities, and is integral to sustaining our quality of life.

Furthermore, we understand that:

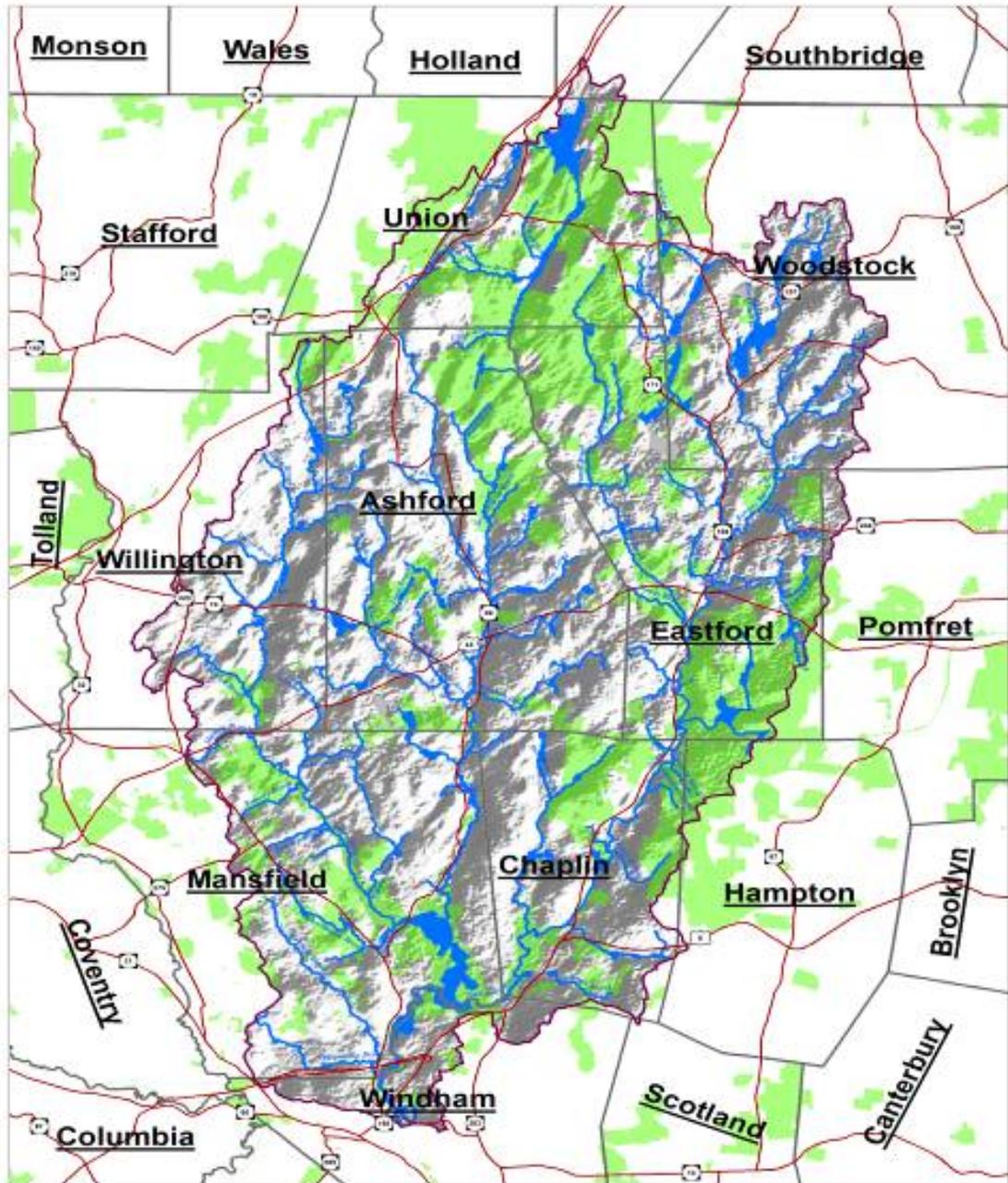
1. Management of land and water uses throughout the basin is key to sustaining watershed health. Therefore, municipal policies that support wise land use decisions and best management practices are essential;
2. Clean air and water, flood security and ample recreational opportunities provided by a well managed watershed are essential for maintaining public health and welfare; and
3. A healthy watershed ecosystem is consistent with each municipality's goals of promoting a vibrant community, preserving town character, fostering ecological integrity, maintaining public health and safety and nurturing sustainable economic growth.

Therefore, the towns of the Natchaug River Basin enter into this voluntary compact that acknowledges their commitment to work cooperatively to balance conservation and growth by:

1. Protecting and restoring the natural resources of the watershed;
2. Reviewing land use regulations and municipal practices and adapting them to be compatible with the goals of this conservation compact;
3. Supporting efforts to link and maintain ecologically viable habitats and rural landscapes; and
4. Ensuring the long-term environmental health, vitality and security of the watershed to enhance the social and economic strength of our communities.

NATCHAUG RIVER WATERSHED

 Conservation Ownership



Data Sources:
 Roads, rivers/lakes, state land,
 town boundaries, watershed
 boundary: CT DEP
 TNC interests: TNC



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 Miles

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