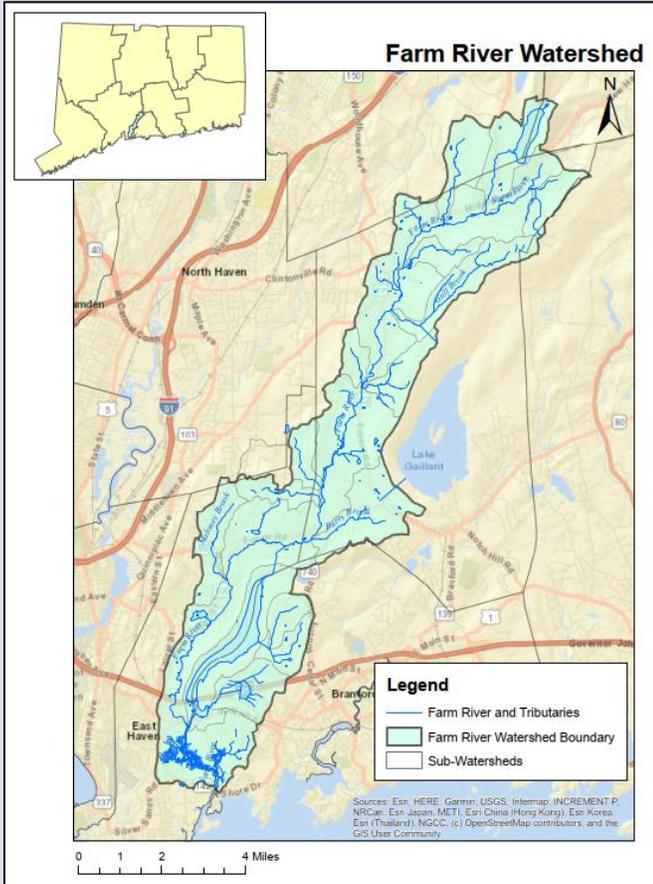
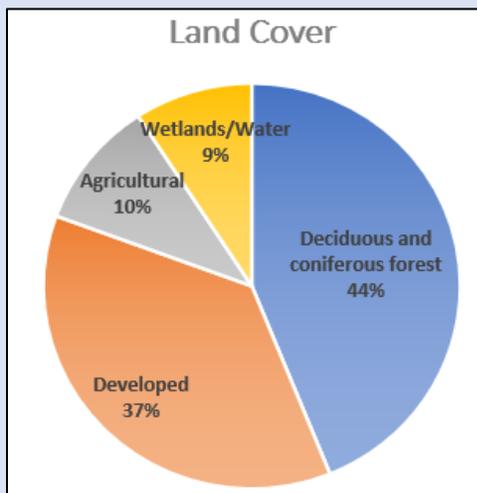


# The Farm River Watershed: Fact Sheet

**Overview:** The Farm River Watershed is located in New Haven and Middlesex counties in south-central Connecticut. The watershed covers an area of approximately 25.5 square miles across the towns of North Branford, East Haven, Branford, Wallingford, Durham, and North Haven.

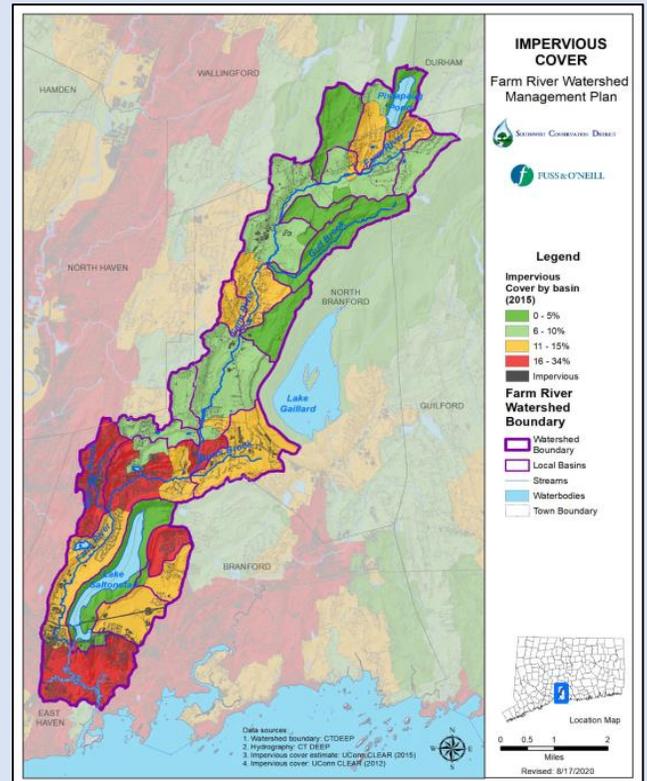


The Farm River Watershed covers a diverse variety of land including deciduous and coniferous forest, developed areas, and agriculture. Tilcon Quarry of North Branford also makes up about 2% of the watershed area.



**Water Quality:** Water quality across the Farm River Watershed varies. Certain stream segments are of high-quality and support healthy populations of resident fish species and macroinvertebrates. These areas include the public drinking water supply sources within the watershed that are managed by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and are well-protected by undeveloped land. However, the long history of development and certain land-use activities have adversely affected the water quality of some segments within the watershed.

**Impervious Cover:** Impervious cover refers to any surface that prevents natural infiltration of stormwater into the soil, such as buildings and pavement. Stormwater runoff generated in developed areas within the watershed is a significant source of pollutants, such as fecal indicator bacteria and excess nutrients.



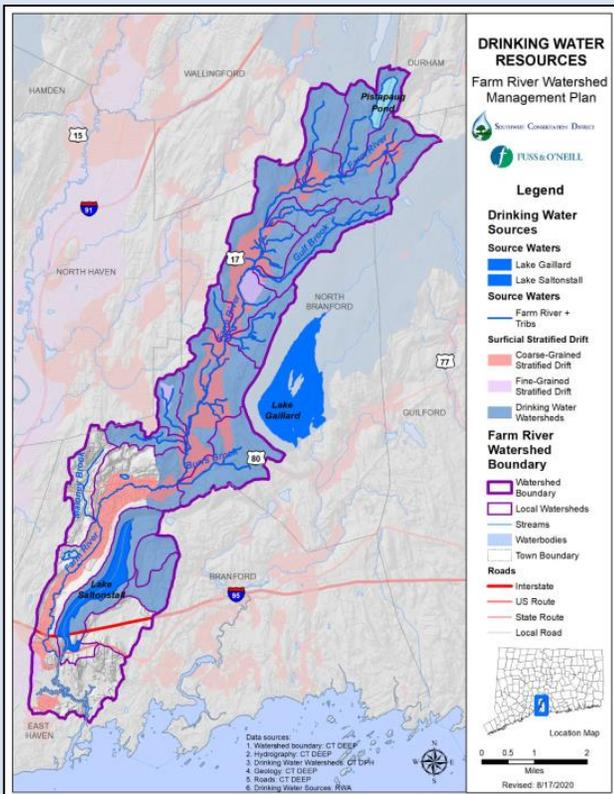
To address the overall health of the Farm River Watershed, stakeholders from various organizations with interest in the watershed have gathered to create a watershed management plan. These stakeholders include:

Southwest Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, CT Department of Public Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, Fuss & O'Neill, CT Council on Soil & Water Conservation, East Shore District Health Department, Save the Sound, South Central CT Regional Water Authority, Town of Branford, Town of East Haven, Town of Guilford, Town of North Branford, Town of Wallingford, North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Branford Land Trust, East Haven Land Trust, Hammonasset Chapter Trout Unlimited, and Friends of Farm River Estuary.

# The Farm River Watershed: Fact Sheet

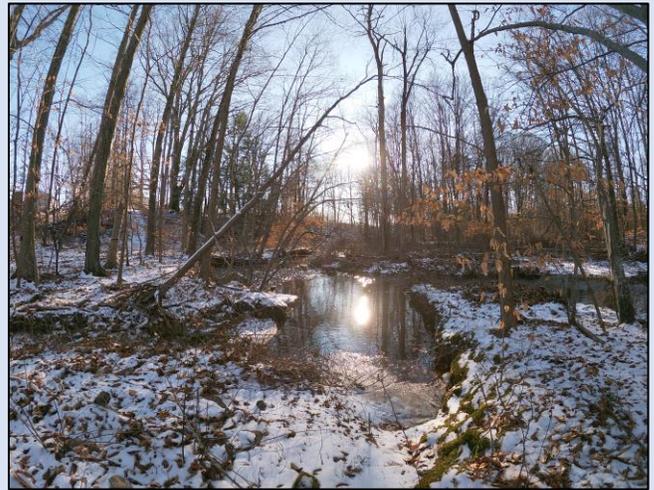
**Watershed Management Plan:** In general, the goal of a watershed management plan is to protect and improve the health of the drinking water supplies and source waters within the watershed. A watershed management plan considers various factors such as soil characteristics, water quality and quantity, wetland distribution, geology, ecology, forest cover and many more. The funding to develop the Farm River watershed plan is through the National Water Quality Initiative.

**Drinking Water Supply:** The Farm River Watershed is served by 1) the regional public water supply system operated by the South-Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) that relies on surface water, 2) smaller public water public water systems that rely on groundwater, and 3) private groundwater wells.



**Best Management Practices:** To protect the health of the watercourses within the Farm River Watershed, best management practices (BMPs) are implemented at various sites in the area. The goal of BMPs is to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff from entering the streams, and thus, reduce the amount of polluted material from entering the streams. Some examples of general BMPs implementations are bioretention areas, vegetated swales, and permeable pavements. Some examples of agricultural-related BMPs include cover cropping, nutrient load management, and irrigation management.

**Benefits of the Watershed Management Plan:** Completing this watershed management plan will not only improve the overall health of the watershed but will also provide additional funding opportunities to eligible properties in which further improvements can be made. Funding opportunities for agricultural-related projects include the NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), Conservation Innovative Grants (CIG) and more. Additional funding opportunities would also be available through the EPA Clean Water Section 319 Program.



Segment of the Farm River seen from off Farmington Drive in North Branford

**Note:** The information provided in this document has been gathered from previous reports, stakeholder input, on-site assessment, stream walks, and USGS water quality data collection. Please contact the Southwest Conservation District at [SWCD@conservect.org](mailto:SWCD@conservect.org) if you have any questions.



Aerial view of Lake Saltonstall and the Farm River (left) near the head of the Farm River Estuary. Photo courtesy of the RWA.