Writing the Next Chapter:

2018-2023 State Plan of Conservation and Development

PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND OPEN DISCUSSION

DECEMBER 21, 2016
NHCOG
GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT

Today's Objectives

- Review the timeline for updating the State C&D Plan
- Receive local / regional input:
  - What are the regional and local conservation and development priorities within this region?
  - How can the State C&D Plan be improved?
  - How can the Locational Guide Map be improved?
  - Can the State C&D Plan be implemented more effectively?

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2018-2023 C&D Plan Timeline

- *September 1, 2016* — OPM submits an initial draft of the State C&D Plan to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development for a 90-day review. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(a))
- *March 1, 2017* — OPM publishes a revised draft State C&D Plan based on feedback from the Continuing Committee. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(b))
- *March 1, 2017 – August 1, 2017* — OPM conducts formal public hearings to solicit comments on the draft C&D Plan. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(c))
- *December 1, 2017* — OPM submits a recommended draft State C&D Plan to the Continuing Committee for consideration. (CGS Sec. 16a-29)
- *2018 Legislative Session* — Continuing Committee holds a public hearing on the draft State C&D Plan, prior to making its own recommendation to the General Assembly for approval or disapproval. (CGS Sec. 16a-30(a))

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Regional Priorities

- What are the main conservation goals for municipalities and the region?
  - Agriculture; open space; water resources; forests; trails; wildlife habitat…
- What are the main development goals for municipalities and the region?
  - Identify projects of local/regional significance
  - Identify roles of urban core areas, suburban and rural areas
  - Identify infrastructure maintenance and improvement needs

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C&D Plan: Areas for Improvement

- GMP #1: Develop within areas of existing and planned infrastructure
- GMP #2: Expand Housing Opportunities for all Household Types
- GMP #3: Develop Around Transportation Nodes and Corridors
- GMP #4: Conserve and Restore the Natural Environment
- GMP #5: Protect Environmental Assets Critical to Health and Safety
- GMP #6: Integrate Planning Across all Levels of Government

Local & Regional Priorities

How can local and regional priorities be better reflected in the State C&D Plan?

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Roles of the Locational Guide Map

- Delineates “Priority Funding Areas” (PFAs) for the purpose of CGS Chapter 297a:
  - “The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development, Housing, Energy and Environmental Protection, Administrative Services, Agriculture and Transportation, the regional councils of governments in the state and any other persons or entities the secretary deems necessary, shall develop recommendations for delineation of the boundaries of priority funding areas in the state and for revisions thereafter.
- Growth-related projects must be located within the boundaries of priority funding areas.
- Provides state agencies with underlying data for general planning purposes.

How the Locational Guide Map is Applied for Growth-related Projects

Priority Funding Areas	Balanced Priority Funding Areas	Village Priority Funding Areas	Conservation Areas	Undesignated Areas
Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception	Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception, if the sponsoring agency documents how it will address any potential policy conflicts	Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception, if the sponsoring agency documents how it will help sustain village character	Growth-related projects may proceed with an exception*	Growth-related projects may proceed with an exception*

* Exception Process Requires a State Growth-Related Project to be Consistent with the Municipality's POCD

Priority Funding Areas: How are they delineated?

- Foundation: Census Blocks ("pixels")
  - Census Blocks tend to be smaller in urban areas; larger in rural areas

- A Census Block that includes at least one PFA factor in any portion of its geographic area is designated as a Priority Funding Area in its entirety.

- A Census Block designated as a Priority Funding Area that also includes a conservation factor is designated as a Balanced Priority Funding Area only in the specific area where the conservation factor exists.

Priority Funding Areas

Larger Census Blocks in less populated areas

Smaller Census Blocks in highly populated areas

Priority Funding Area Criteria:

- Designation as an Urban Area or Urban Cluster in 2010 Census
- Boundaries that intersect a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass-transit stations (busway or passenger rail)
- Existing or planned sewer service
- Existing or planned water service
- Local bus routes when service is provided 7 days a week

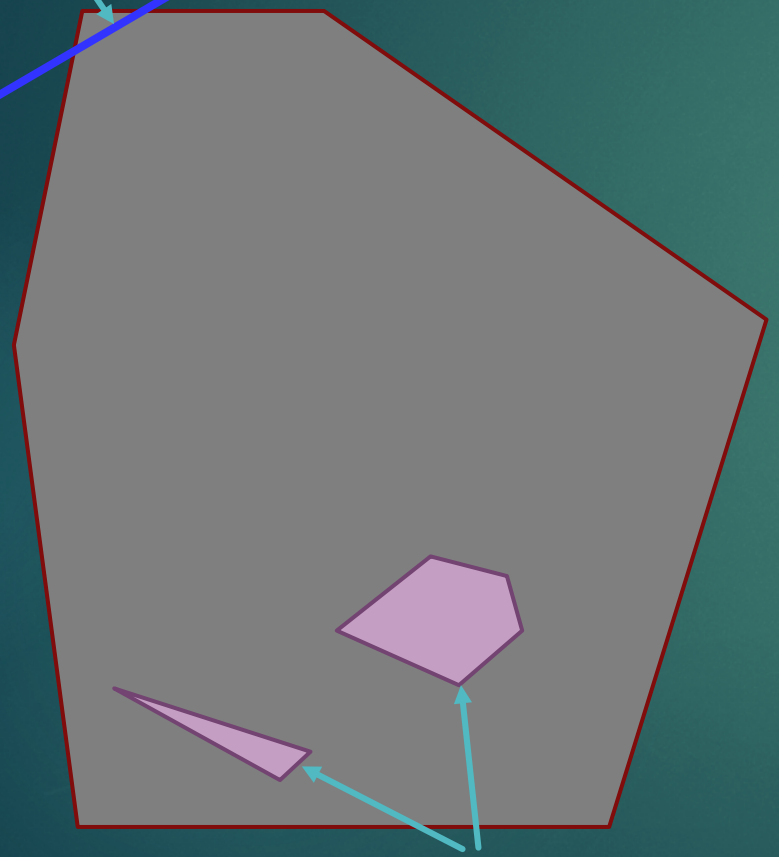
Conservation Criteria:

- Core forest areas greater than 250 acres
- 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
- Hurricane inundation zones
- 100-year flood zones
- Critical wildlife habitats
- Locally important conservation areas (data submitted by municipalities)

Locational Guide Map Challenges

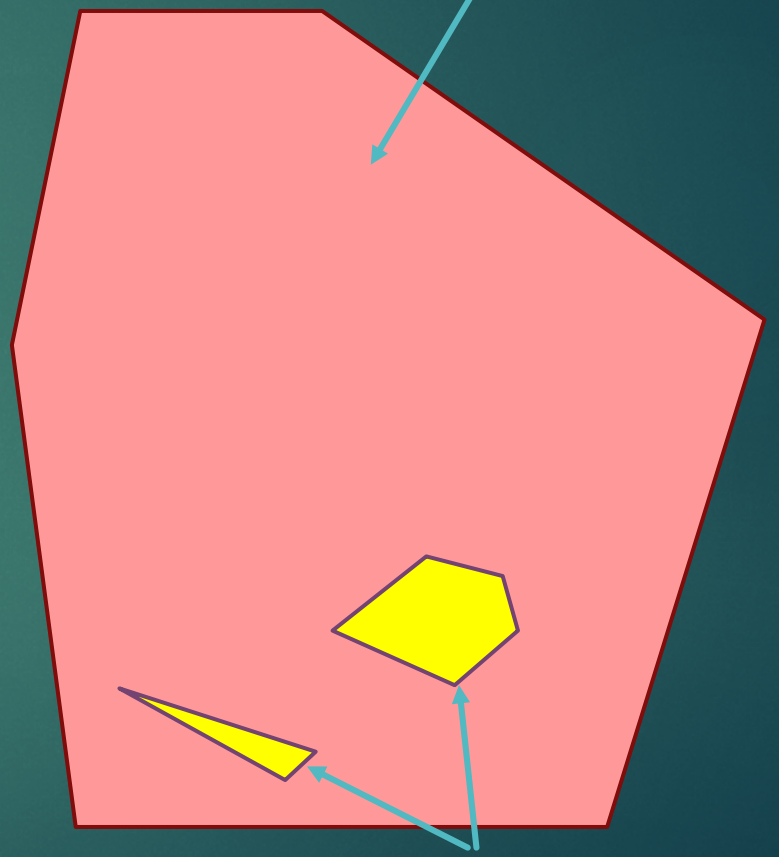
- Suitability and accuracy of some PFA criteria
- “Balanced PFAs” provide very limited protection for conservation areas located within PFA-designated Census Blocks
- Large Census Blocks can be inappropriately classified as PFAs if they are merely clipped by a PFA criterion (example next slide)
- Others?

Water Service Area passes through one corner of Census Block:

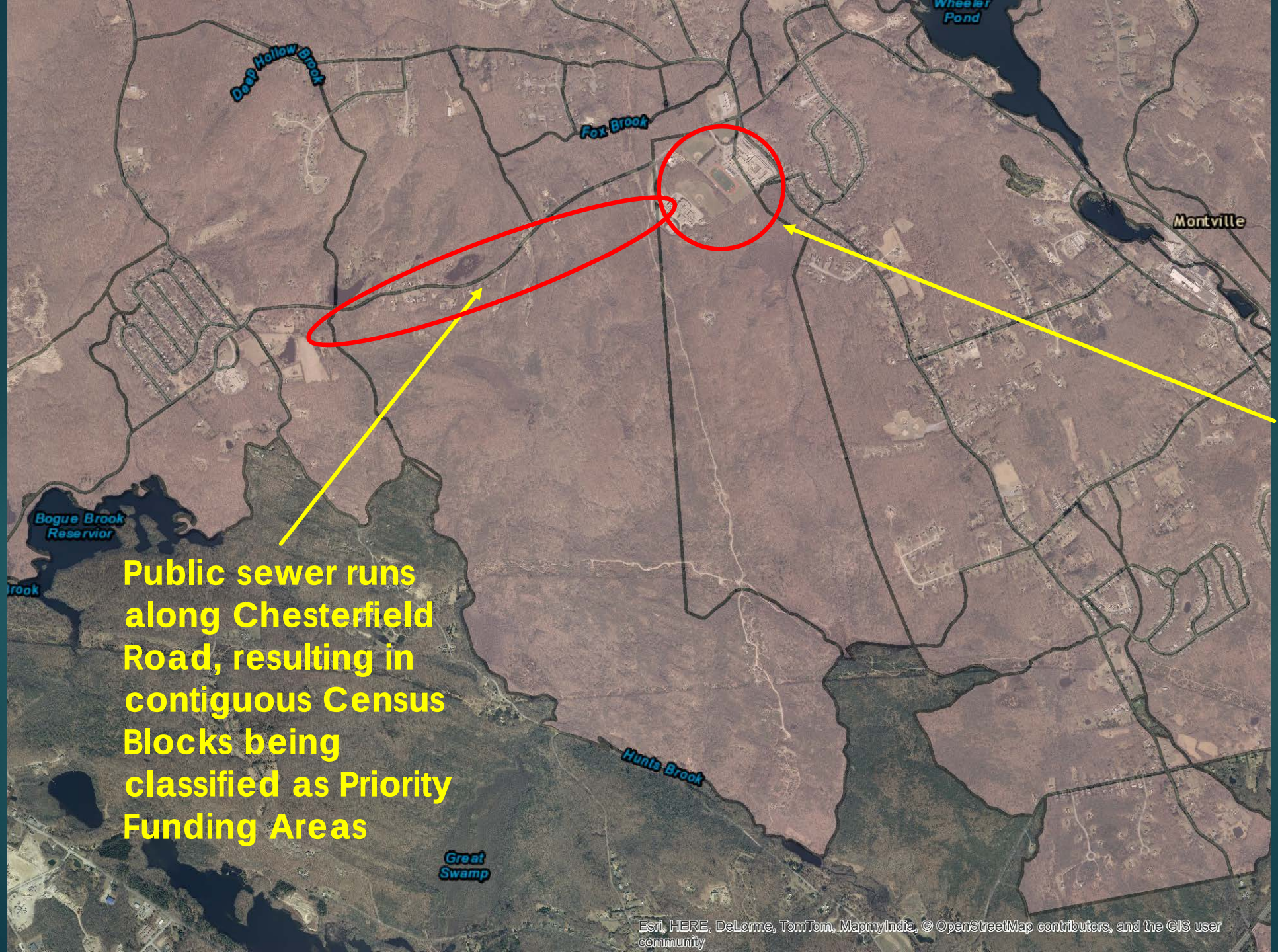


Critical habitat area (conservation factor)

Results in entire Census Block being designated as a **Priority Funding Area (PFA)**:

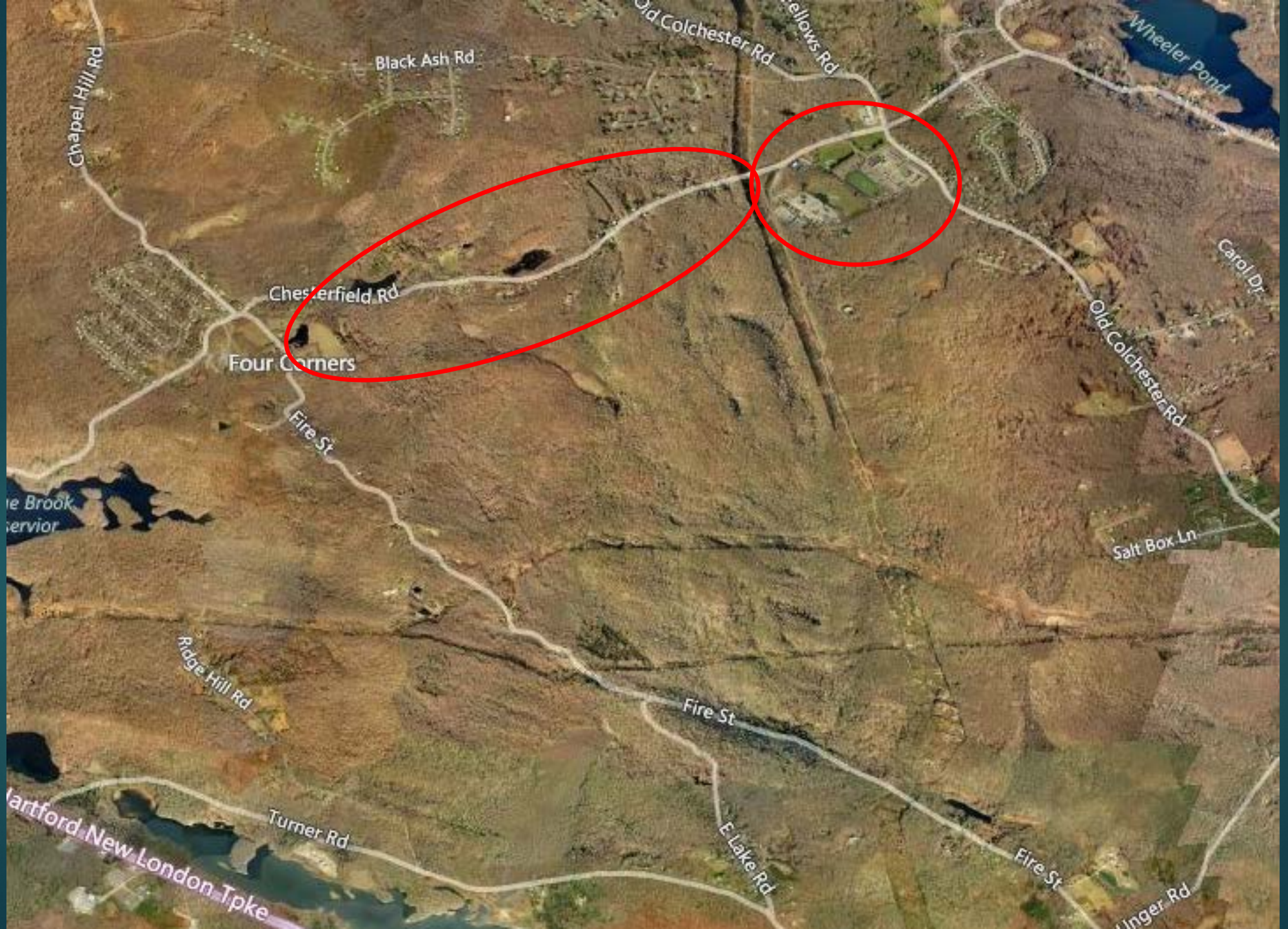


Balanced PFA designation only where conservation factors exist



Public sewer runs along Chesterfield Road, resulting in contiguous Census Blocks being classified as Priority Funding Areas

Public sewer serves Leonard J. Tyl Middle School campus; resulting in entire Census Block being classified as a Priority Funding Area


Chapel Hill Rd
Black Ash Rd
Old Colchester Rd
Wheeler Pond
Chesterfield Rd
Four Corners
Fire St
Carol Dr
Old Colchester Rd
Salt Box Ln
Ridge Hill Rd
Fire St
Turner Rd
E Lake Rd
Fire St
Unger Rd

Balanced Priority Funding Area in yellow represents conservation criteria

Locally important conservation area

Core forest

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C&D Plan Implementation

- Have any municipalities or COGs experienced any issues with how state agencies have implemented the 2013-2018 State C&D Plan?
- Should the LGM be better aligned with other mapping criteria, given the new requirements of CGS Sec. 8-23?

Check OPM's website for information and updates:

www.ct.gov/opm/cdplan

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