



Town of North Haven POCD 2015 Update

Town Plan of Conservation & Development (TPOCD)

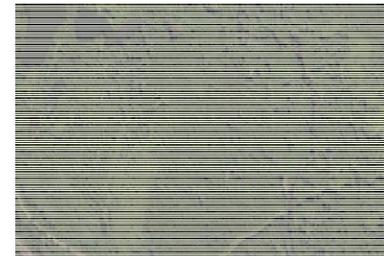
Natural Resources, Open Space,
& Historic Resources

Feb. 22, 2016



Introduction

- Natural resources, open space, and historic resources:
 - Help define community character
 - Improve quality of life
- Natural resources include floodplains and wetlands, watersheds, steeply sloping soils, and rare and sensitive species habitats;
- Open space includes any piece of land that is undeveloped and accessible to the public, including green space, schoolyards, playgrounds, public seating areas, and public plazas;
- Historic resources include archaeological resources, historic structures, and historically significant landscapes.





Natural Resources





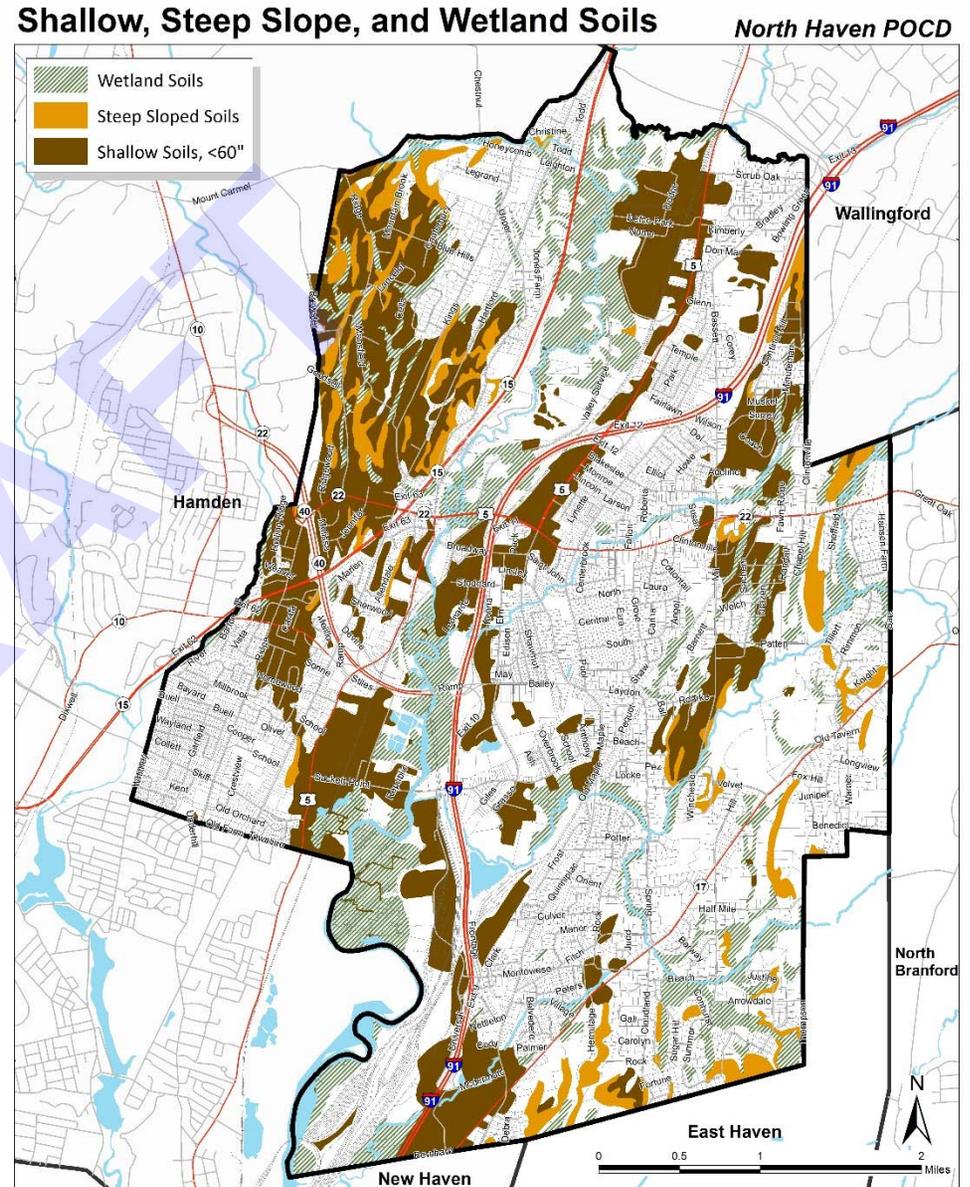
Why Inventory Natural Resources?

- **Importance of Natural Resources:**
 - Ecological Functions
 - Water and Air Quality
 - Flood Control
 - Habitat
 - Economic Functions
 - Improve Property Values
 - Reduce Infrastructure Costs
 - Quality of Life Functions
 - Community Character
 - Health and Wellness Opportunities
- **Because Natural Resources Are Sensitive To Changes in:**
 - Land Use
 - Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Transportation and Other Infrastructure



Environmentally Sensitive Soils

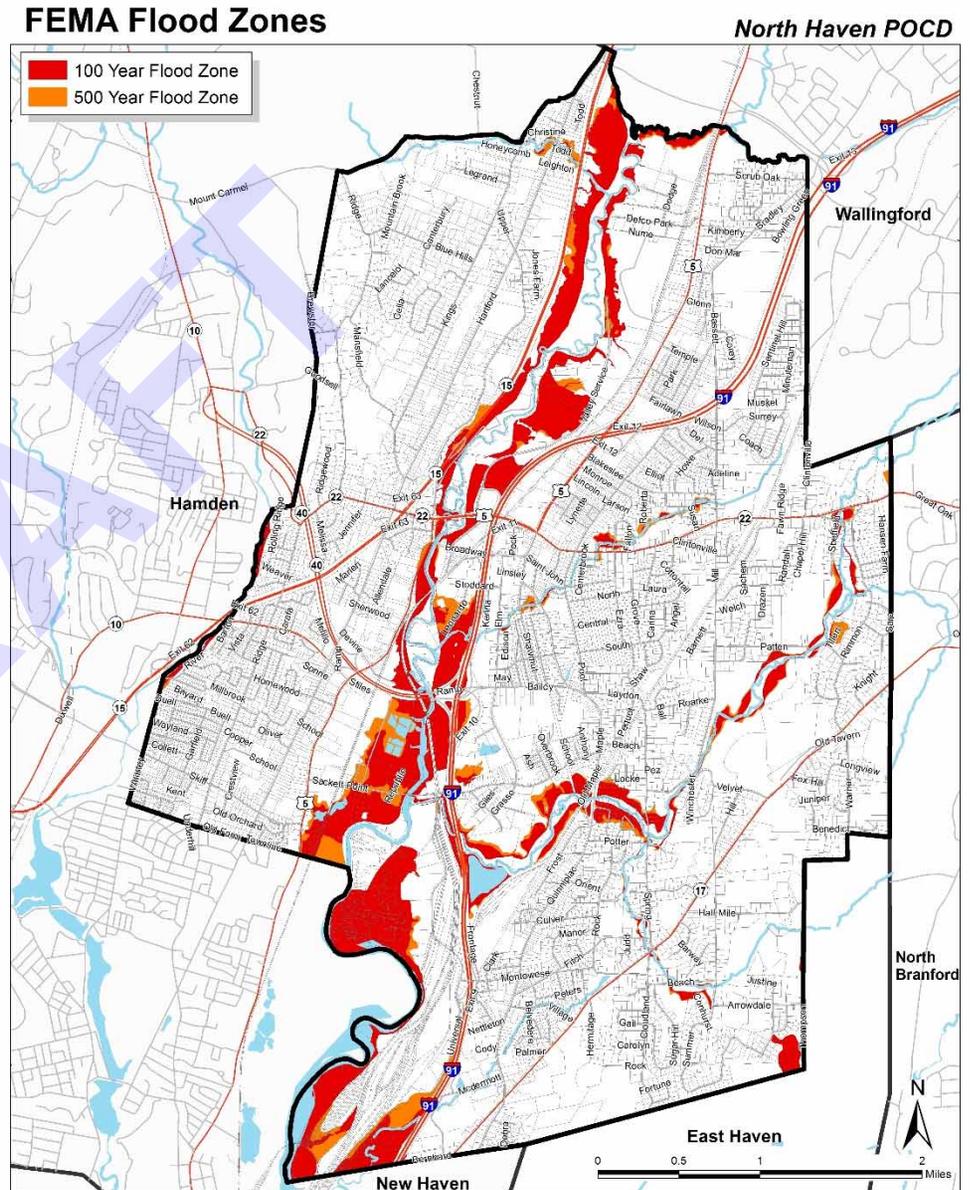
- Wetlands, steep slopes, and shallow soils also act as constraints to development;
- Sensitive soils have higher runoff potential;
- Wetlands (13% of Town) play a critical role in preventing flooding and purifying the local water supply;
- Protective Measures – Regulations, Development Techniques, etc.;
- Sensitive Soils & Flood Zones will be incorporated in to the Build-Out Analysis.





FEMA Flood Zones

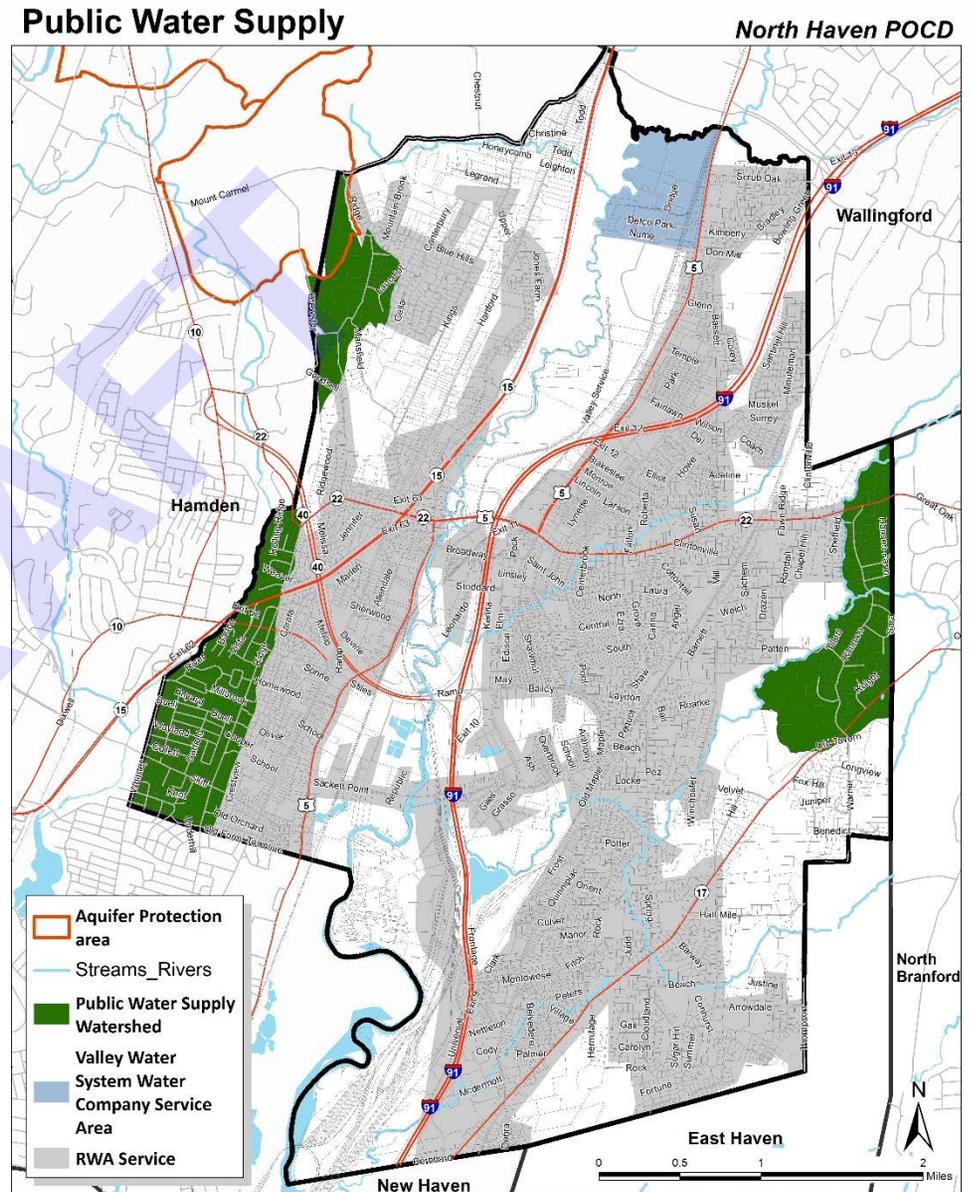
- Environmentally sensitive areas such as flood plains constrain a community's development decisions;
- FEMA flood mapping updated in 2013;
- Between 2005 and 2013, an additional 158 acres in North Haven were added to FEMA's 100-year flood zone.





Public Water Supply

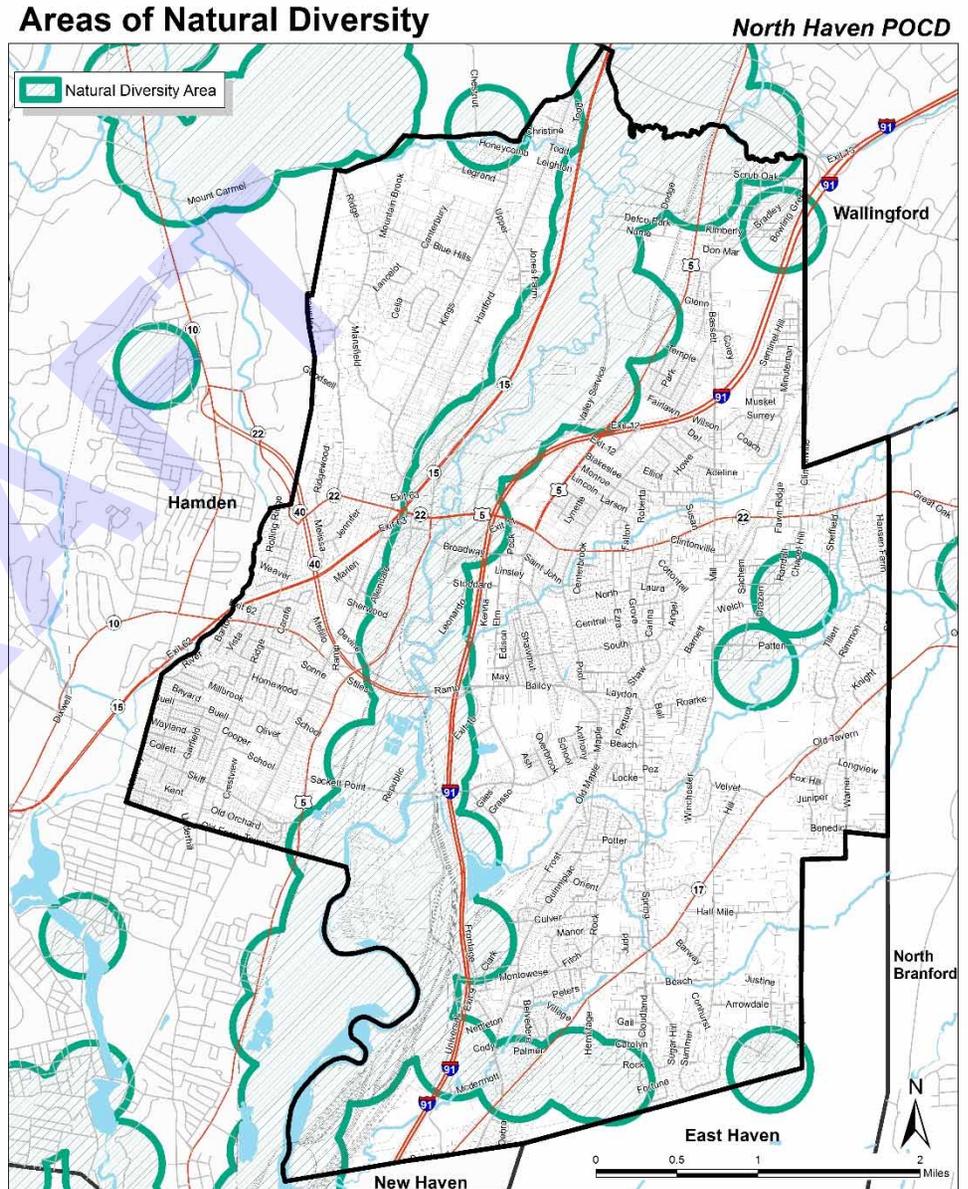
- Aquifer Protection Area (APA) in northwest corner;
 - APA's pollution prevention through management of existing and future land uses
- North Haven's public water supply comes from a mix of sources, including Lake Gaillard in North Branford and the Hamden Wells;
- South Central Regional Water Authority (RWA) serves almost all of the Town.





Natural Diversity

- Habitats of endangered, threatened and special concern species;
- Much of North Haven's natural diversity is concentrated around the Quinnipiac River and its other watercourses.





Regulatory Protection Efforts

- Aquifer Protection Area Overlay Zoning Regulations;
- Cluster Subdivision Regulations;
- Stream Buffer Regulations for Quinnipiac & Muddy Rivers;
- Coastal Site Plan Review;
- Inland Wetlands Upland Review Area.



Town of North Haven, CT

Zoning Regulations



Adopted: February 5, 2007

Effective Date: March 1, 2007



Natural Resources Summary

- North Haven's rivers and watercourses, particularly the Quinnipiac, are its key natural resources in terms of health, recreation, and animal habitats;
- In addition to its role as a natural resource, the Quinnipiac also serves as a link and shared resource that connects North Haven to neighboring communities;
- Environmental constraints on development are largely clustered around the rivers, and in the rocky western half of town;
- Are these mapped resources aligned with local conservation priorities?
- Are soils and habitats being considered in land preservation?



Parks, Recreation & Open Space





What is Open Space?

- For POCD's Open Space is typically defined as land that is permanently preserved for or dedicated to open space and recreational uses;
- State of Connecticut Defines Open Space as:
...land used for recreational and conservation purposes as land used for “agriculture, parks, natural areas, forests, camping, fishing, wetland preservation, wildlife habitat, reservoirs, hunting, golfing, boating, swimming, snowmobiling, historic and scenic preservation.” CGS §7-131c



What is Open Space?

- Dedicated vs. Undedicated Open Space
 - Dedicated Open Space – All lands that are permanently preserved
 - Preserved Through Restrictions and/or Easement
 - State, Town Parks, land trust & open space set aside
 - Counts towards state's goal – 21%
 - Undedicated or perceived open space - open space not permanently protected but contributes to the open space network and functions as open space
 - PA 490 Land, raw vacant land, residual land at public facilities
 - Does Not Count towards state's goal

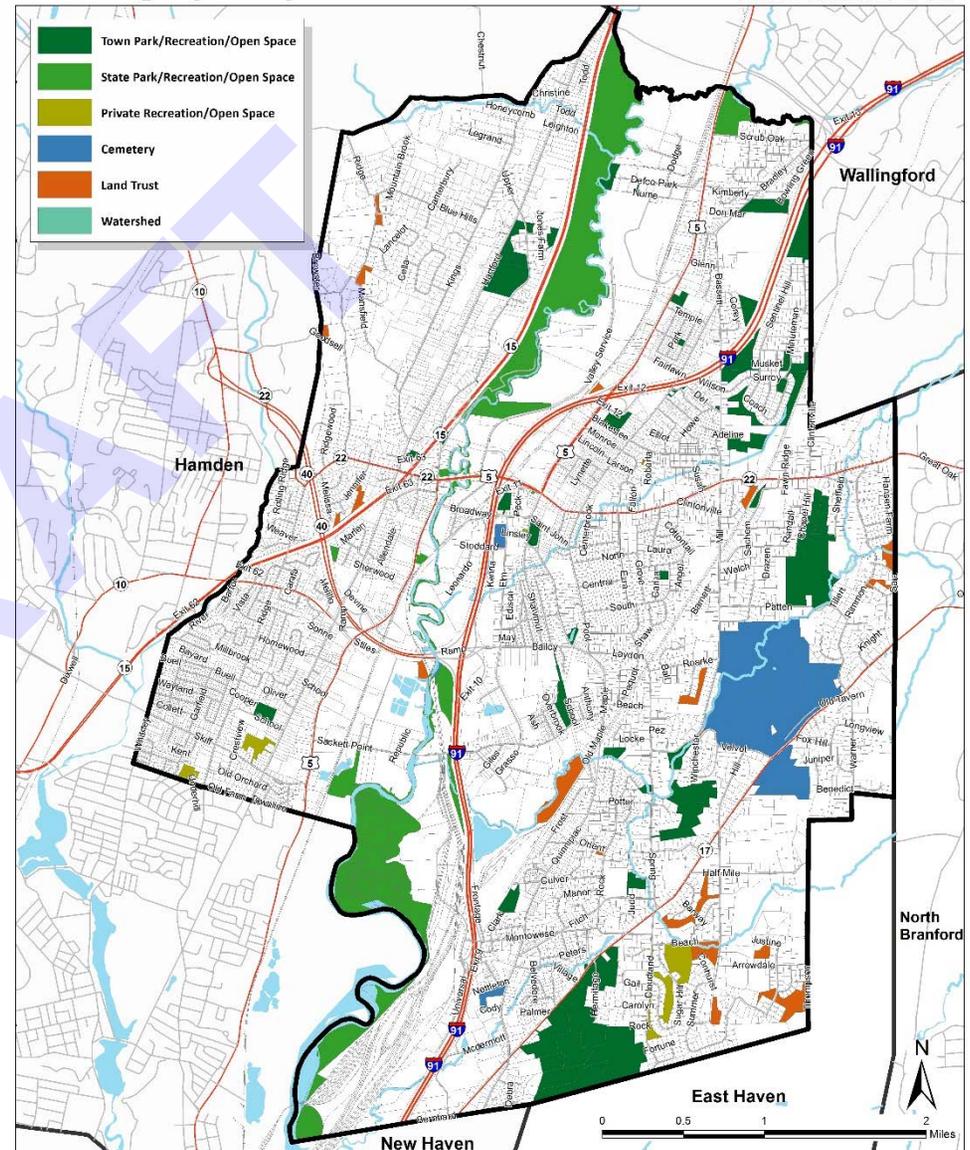


North Haven's Open Space Inventory

- Open Space Inventory includes: State park and wildlife lands, Town parks and open space lands, North Haven Land Trust lands, cemeteries, major utility land holdings, and privately owned open space lands;
- State goal: 21% protected open space by 2023;
- 2005 POCD: 1,776 acres (13.1% land area);
- 2015 POCD 1,812 acres (13.5% land area).*

* Not included All Saints Cemetery.

Existing Open Space 2015





Active Vs. Passive

➤ Residents consider Open Space Recreational Uses as...



Source: taken by MMI, 10/2015



Active

or

Passive



Active Open Space

- Active Open Space
 - Active open space can be used for both formal and informal recreation.
 - Active recreational facilities are areas that include:
 - Multipurpose Fields
 - Baseball & Softball Fields
 - Basketball
 - Tennis Courts
 - Skateboard Parks
 - Playgrounds



Source: <https://lintvwnh.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/playground-bench-north-haven.jpg?w=640>



Passive Open Space

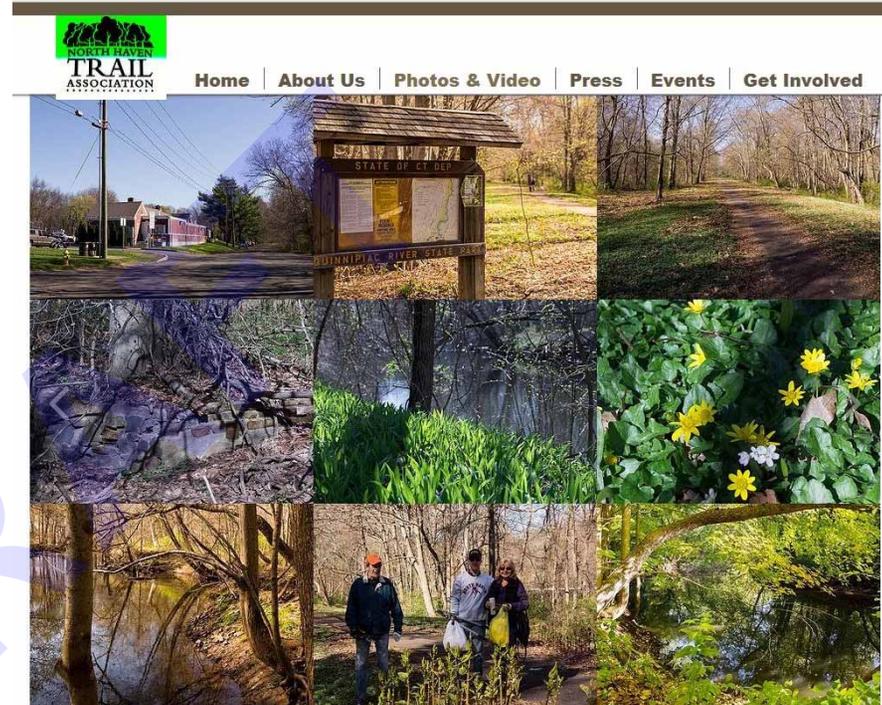
- Passive Open Space
 - Passive open space can provide recreational facilities that include low impact recreation such as hiking with minimal development or improvements;
 - Also includes natural conservation areas.



Source: taken by MMI, 10/2015



Parks and Trails



- The North Haven Trail Association has supported efforts to create a trail along the Quinnipiac River, potentially connecting to linear river trails in Wallingford and Meriden.



Parks CIP for 2016-20

Planned Improvement to:

- Grover Wyman Park
- Temple Pines Park Pavallion
- Memorial Park Playscape & BB Court
- Vanacore Football & Field Bleachers
- Montowese Park
- Wadsworth – Forest Park



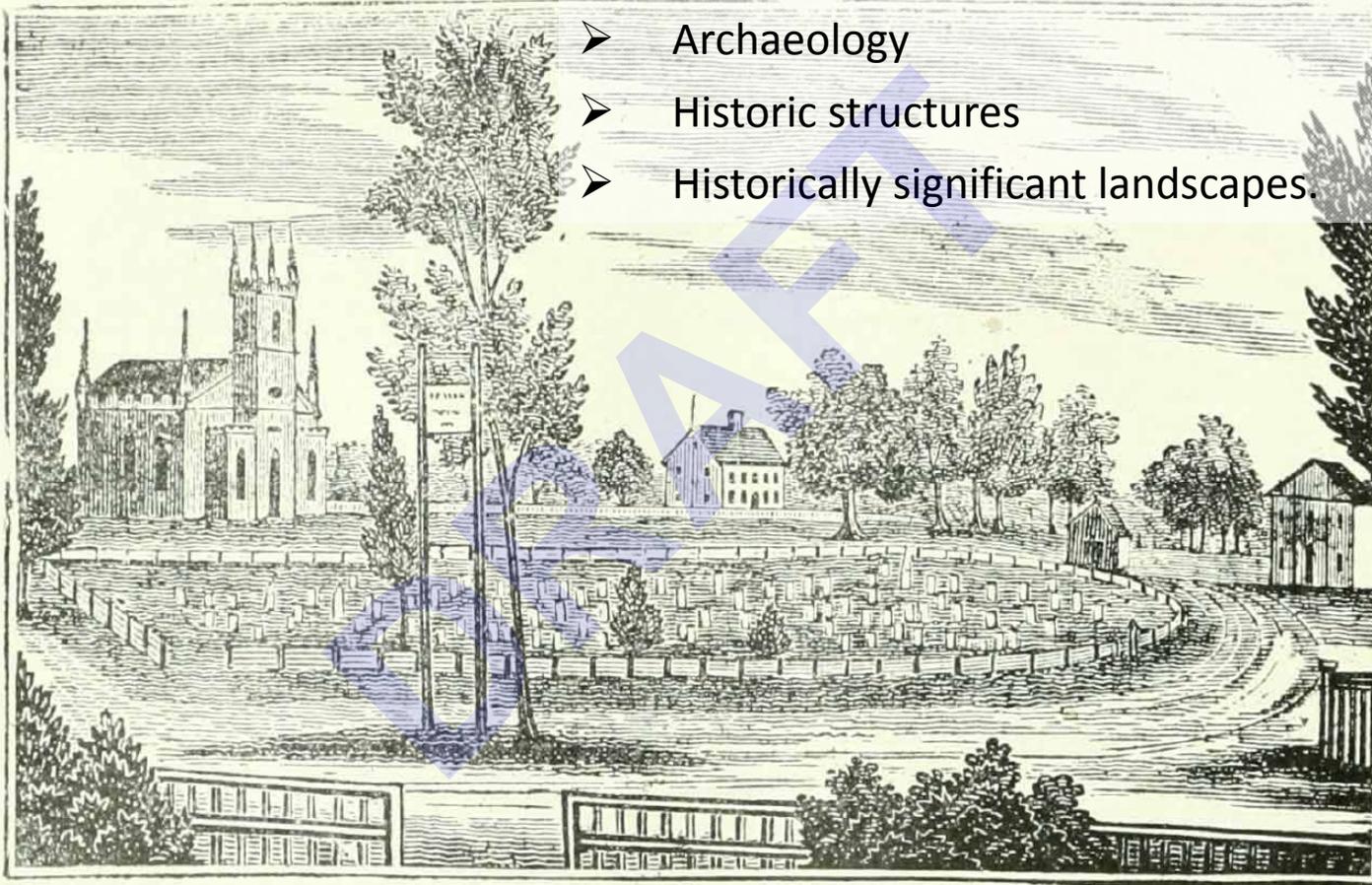
Open Space Summary

- North Haven's open space inventory places the town at 13.5%; comparable to town's of similar size.
- Open space acreage increased by 2.6% between 2005 and 2015.
- Should additional protected open space be acquired by Town or other entities?
- Issues/opportunities regarding the use and management of Town-owned open space?
- Visions and goals for open space preservation
 - Trails?
 - Acquisition priorities?



Historic Resources

- Archaeology
- Historic structures
- Historically significant landscapes.

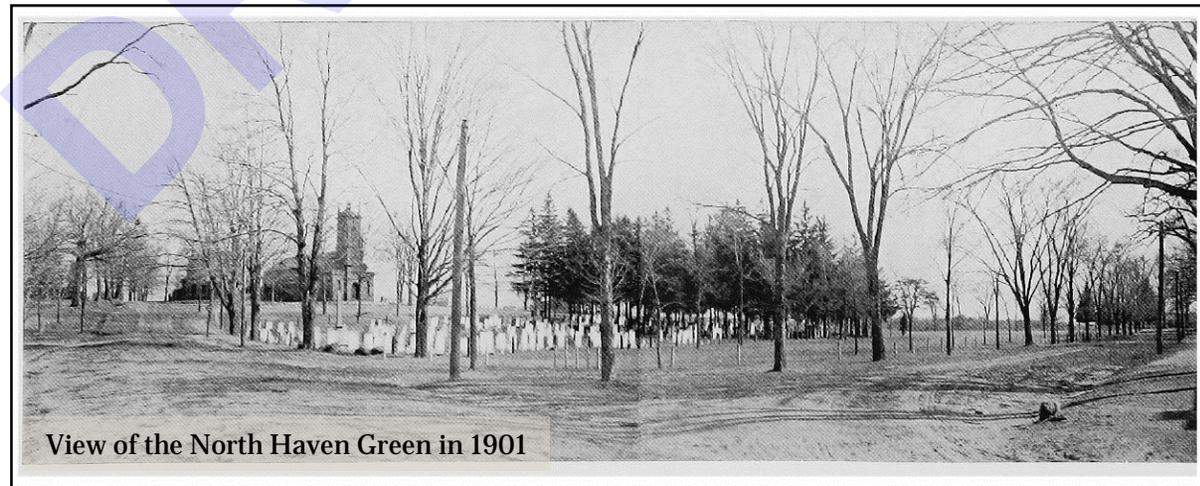
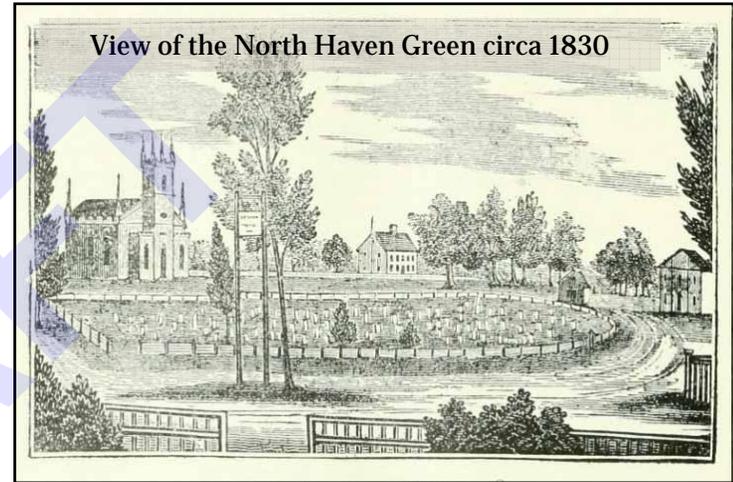
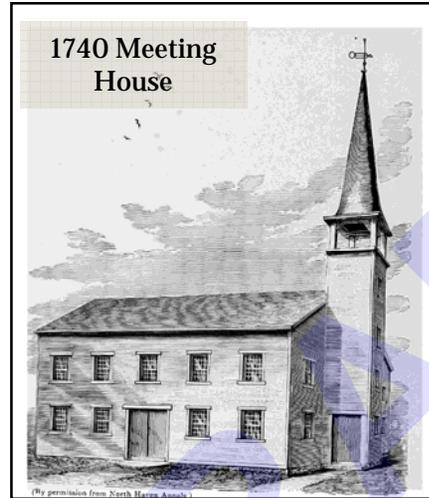


NORTH HAVEN GREEN—1830.



Town Beginnings

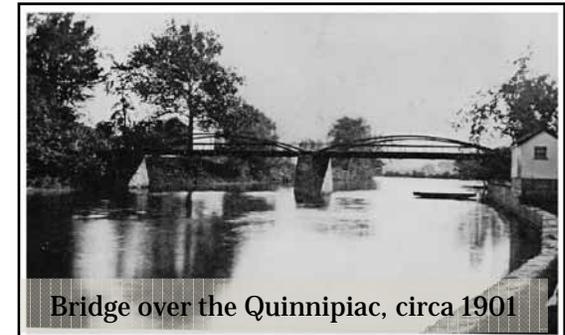
- First settled in the 1670s, North Haven was originally part of the New Haven Colony. It gained autonomy as a separate parish in 1716, and as an incorporated Town in 1786



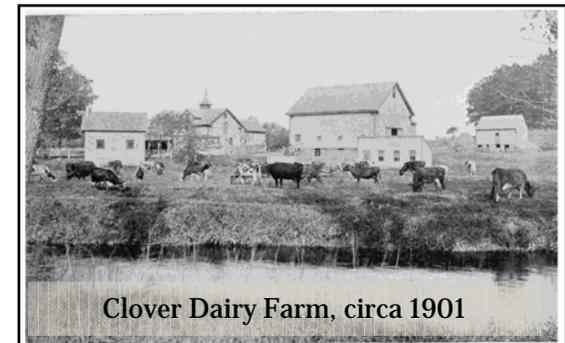


Economic and Transportation History

- Underlying geology and topography played key roles in Town's success
 - Commercial use of the Quinnipiac River
 - Rich farming soils
 - Flat, sandy railroad beds
 - Clay deposits for brick making



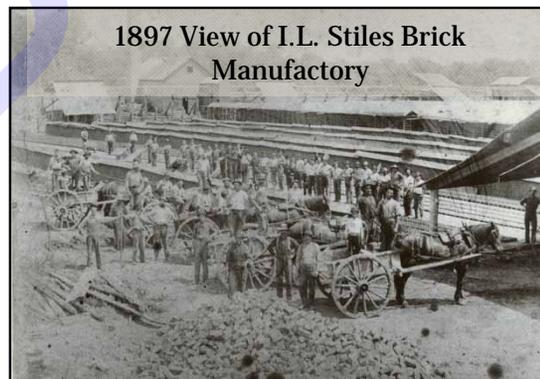
Bridge over the Quinnipiac, circa 1901



Clover Dairy Farm, circa 1901



North Haven Train Station, circa 1920

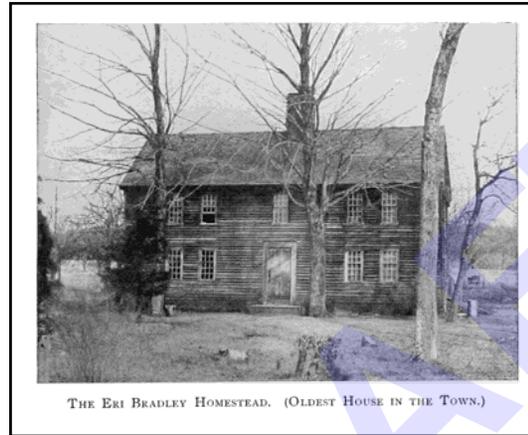


1897 View of I.L. Stiles Brick Manufactory



Local Historic Organizations & Designations

- No local historical commission
- No locally-designated historic properties
- North Haven Historical Society compiled list of 329 historic 18th and 19th century buildings still standing
- Historical Society researching potential demolition delay ordinance





State-Level Designations

- The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) maintains a Statewide Historic Resource Inventory identified 208 North Haven properties that could potentially be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- In 2016, SHPO anticipates expanding web access to list of properties on State Register for some towns, including North Haven.



A circa 1935 photo of the Beech Homestead, located on Quinnipiac Avenue

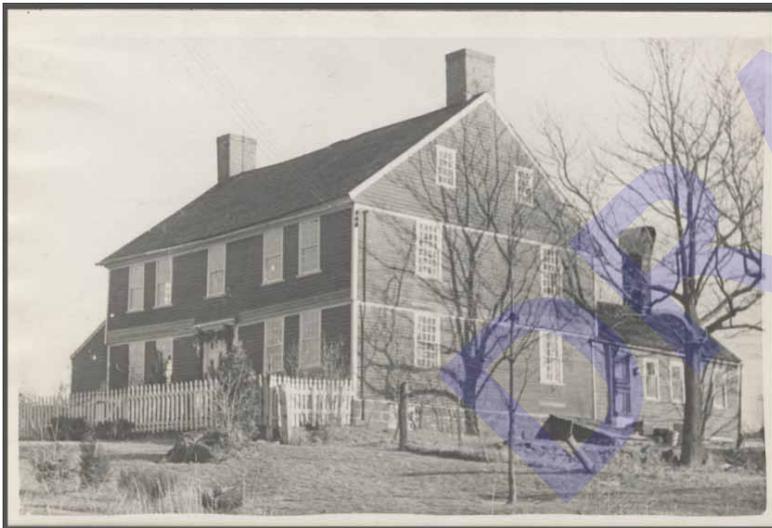


The Beech Homestead in 2011



Federal Designation – National Register of Historic Places

- North Haven has two resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places – the Rising Sun Tavern (circa 1760s), and the Pines Bridge Historic District (18th – 20th century)



1930s view of the Rising Sun Tavern



Modern view of the Rising Sun Tavern



Historic Resources Summary

- Is Town interested in pursuing local historic designation/protection for any significant properties?
- Historical Society has pursued a de?
- Is demolition delay ordinance feasible/desirable?
- What impact could potential development strategies have on Town character, including historic resources?



Discussion & Next Steps...

- Questions & Comments on Tonight's Presentation
- Discussion on Community survey
- Topics for next meeting-
 - Community Facilities
 - Transportation & Infrastructure

DRAFT