



# Draft Batterson Park Study

Welcome to the Public Input Session



# Agenda

- **Welcome**

- Agenda overview

- Public input process and opportunities

- **Presentation of Draft Study**

- Legislative requirements

- Background on Batterson Park – ownership, challenges for Park's future, study elements

- **Public Input**



# DRAFT BATTERSON PARK STUDY PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Presented by: Eric Hammerling, Director  
Office of Environmental Review & Strategic Initiatives

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thanks to the leadership of the Town of Farmington, City of Hartford, and City of New Britain for making their excellent staff available to meet with DEEP's staff and consultant on this Draft Study, and to provide meeting spaces for these public input sessions.



Thanks also to Speaker Matt Ritter and other state legislators who have made it a priority to help determine the future of Batterson Park.



Thanks to the organizations, advocates, and individuals (including you) that are providing important input to DEEP on this Draft Study.

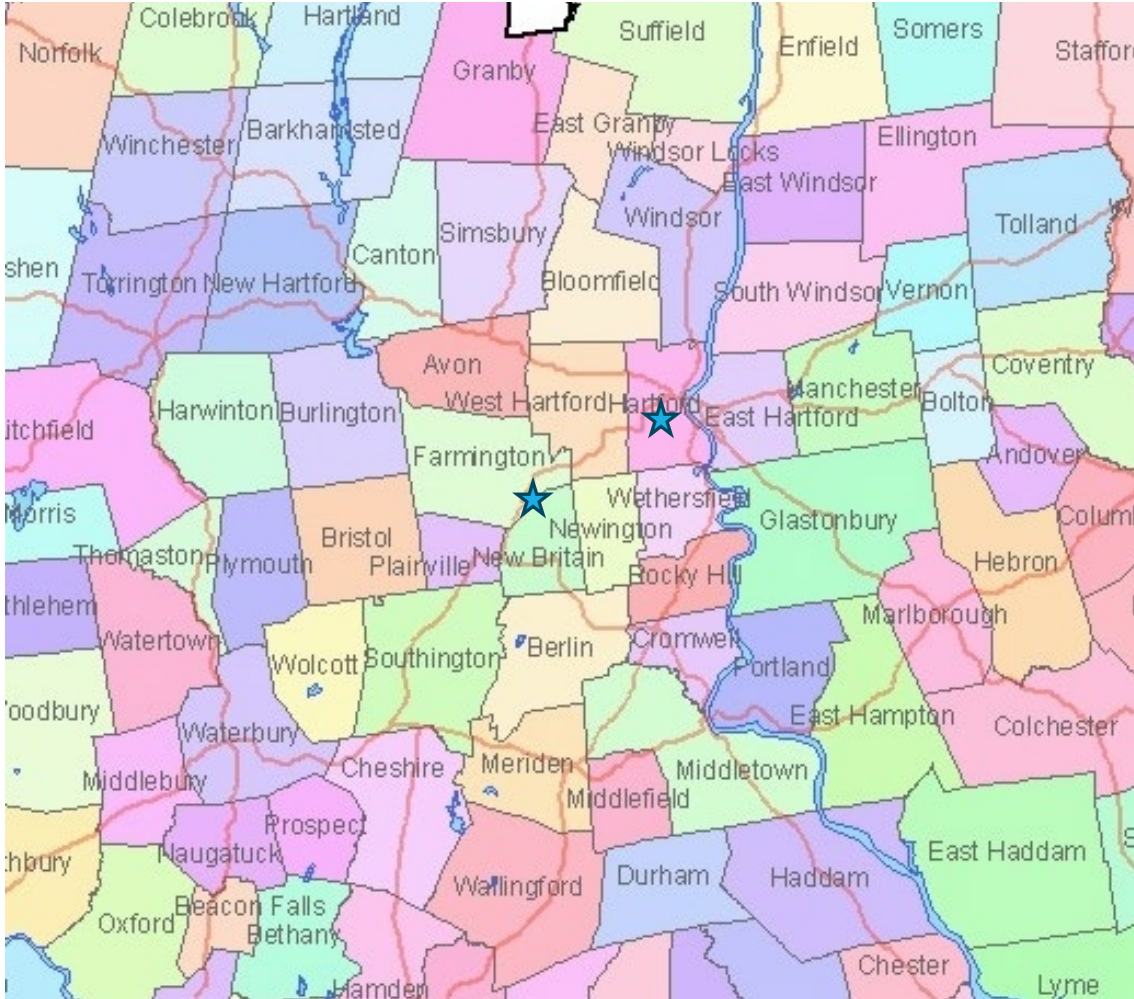
# DEEP REQUIRED BY PUBLIC ACT 23-204 TO CONDUCT STUDY

Study the feasibility of and recreational access to Batterson Park with focus on:

- Water quality of Batterson Park Pond.
- On-site and off-site measures necessary to support swimming in Batterson Park Pond.
- Existing and new infrastructure and capital investments needed to accommodate public recreation and public access.
- Ongoing operation and maintenance costs.
- Public safety concerns.
- Public and public-private partnership options to govern redevelopment of the park.
- Funding needs associated with each redevelopment option; and
- Any other issues deemed necessary to consider by DEEP's Commissioner.

\*Final Study is due to the General Assembly by January 15, 2024.

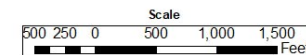
# WHERE IS BATTERSON PARK?



- Owned by City of Hartford. Restricted access (2015).
- 260 acres on border of Farmington and New Britain.
- Separated by ~10-mile/15 min. drive along I-84.



**Batterson Park**



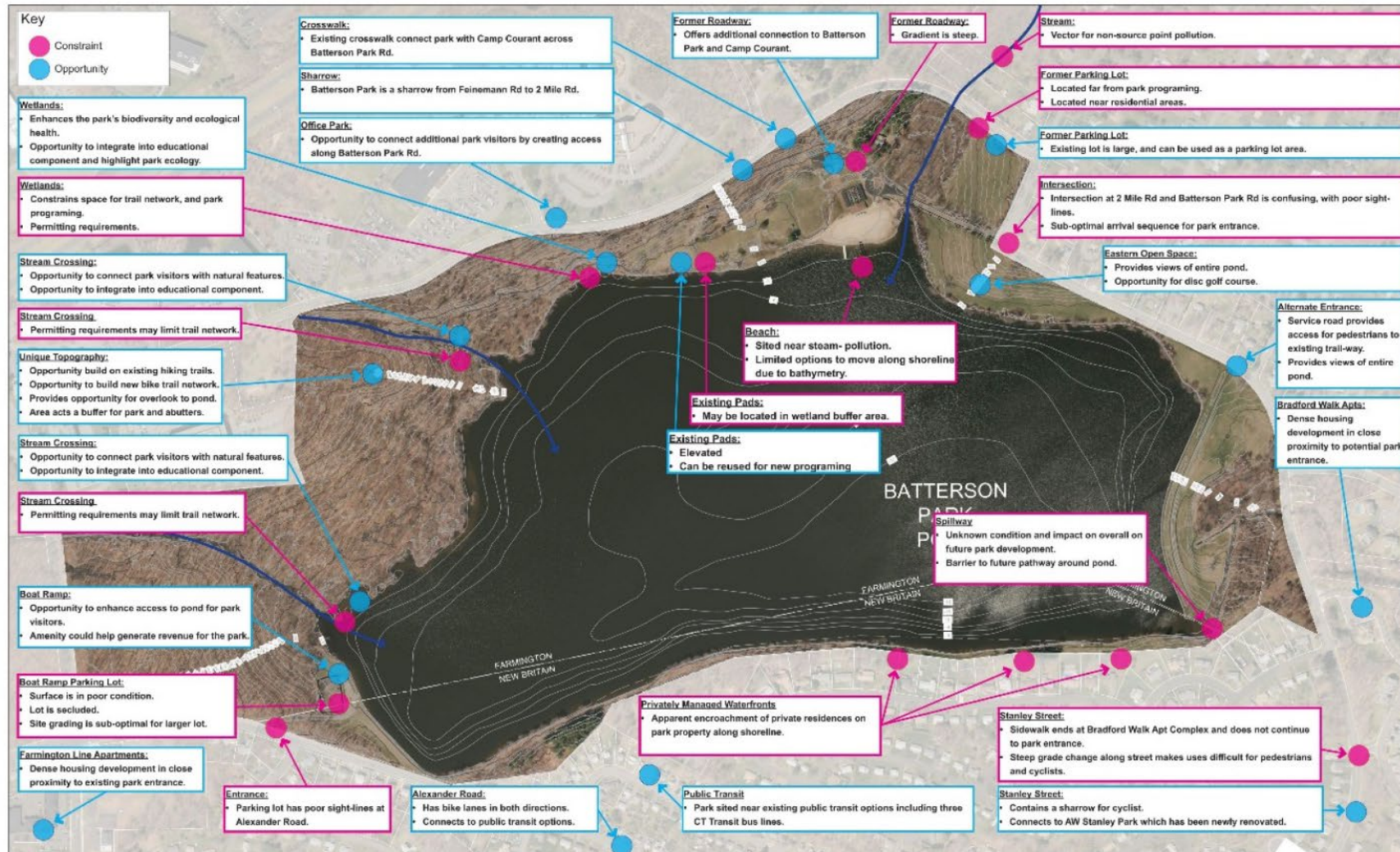
# WATER QUALITY CHALLENGES



USGS topo, circa 1992

- Land that drains to Batterson Pond is 28% developed. Significant drainage from nearby I-84.
- Water quality impairments likely above 10-12% developed.
- High levels of E. coli bacteria and Cyanobacteria measured by DEEP between July – October 2023.
- High bacteria levels suggest direct contact (swimming, wading) is not safe, although boating, fishing, trails, and other uses of Park are compatible with Batterson Pond's water quality.
- Investment in water quality improvements likely to be expensive and potentially unsustainable.

# LAND MANAGEMENT/ENCROACHMENT



Source: Batterson Park Master Plan – City of Hartford, Constraints & Opportunities



# ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS

Ensuring equitable access to the outdoors is a priority for DEEP and all 3 municipalities. Batterson Park is located in a diverse, densely populated area.

Criteria	Within 1 mile of Batterson Park	State average
Population density	7,285 individuals	744 individuals
% described as “people of color”	43% (23% Latino/a, 10% Asian, 6% Black)	21.6%
Per capita income	\$46,594	\$47,869
High school education +	92%	91.1%
Language other than English spoken at home	39%	22.3%

**\*\*Community engagement will be important to Batterson Park’s future.**

# ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY AT BATTERSON PARK

Lots of potential entry/exit points.

Limited parking which could spill-over into neighborhoods.

Some issues with misbehavior and trash at public boat launch.

Likely need 24/7 patrols and rapid response capacity for land/water emergencies.

Complicated jurisdiction issues between municipal, state, and EnCon police.



# POTENTIAL FUTURE RECREATIONAL USES AT BATTERSON PARK

	Multi-Public Entity	Municipal Park	State Park	Public-Private Partnership
Beach Volleyball				
Bird Watching Tower				
Boardwalk and Wetland Gardens				
Boating/Kayak Launch				
Children's Play Garden				
Dog Park	?	?	X	?
Dam Walkway and Lookout				
Disk Golf Course				
Event Lawn				
Fishing Dock				
Main Pavilion				
Multi-use and Hiking Trails	✓	✓	✓	✓
Picnic Grove				
Playground				
Splash pad/water feature				
Waterfront Lounge				



# Future Governance of Batterson Park

- ▶ Evaluating governance models that might work better than the status quo:
  - Municipal park model
  - Multi-public entity partnership
  - Public-private partnership
  - State park model
  - Other ideas?

\*Each governance option requires significant capital investments, adequate personnel for sustainable and safe operations, and other considerations that are ultimately linked back to recreational use choices made for Batterson Park.



# Public Input Process

- Meetings are being recorded
- Please limit input remarks to 3 minutes
- We will alternate between in person and virtual attendees
  
- **In person** – please sign up
- **Virtual** – please use the raise hand feature
  
- **Written** comments will be taken through December 18
  - [Eric.Hammerling@ct.gov](mailto:Eric.Hammerling@ct.gov)

# Virtual Attendees

- ▶ Audio & video are off
- ▶ To comment use “Raise Hand” from the Zoom tool bar



 **Raise Hand**

- ▶ You will be unmuted to speak and muted after



# Thanks for participating!

Follow-up with written comments or questions to  
[Eric.Hammerling@ct.gov](mailto:Eric.Hammerling@ct.gov)