



The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Robert J. Klee, Commissioner

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## Inland Wetlands Management Section

Connecticut has a long history of protecting its land resources. In 1972, the State legislature enacted the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (Act, sections 22a-36 through 22a-45 of the CT General Statutes). With this landmark legislation, the General Assembly recognized that the inland wetlands and watercourses of the State of Connecticut are an indispensable and irreplaceable but fragile natural resource with which the citizens of the State have been endowed. Furthermore, the inland wetlands and watercourses of Connecticut are essential to the well-being of its citizens, and that it is necessary to balance the need for the economic growth of the State and the use of its land with the need to protect its environment. The Act created a regulatory process to consider the impacts of proposed activities on inland wetlands and watercourses; and in keeping with the home rule political culture of our state, the Act provided for municipalities to implement and enforce this regulatory process (State agency actions are solely regulated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)). The volume of business conducted by municipal inland wetlands agencies is substantial on a statewide basis. Approximately 4,000 actions (such as permit approvals or denials, enforcement proceedings, etc.) are taken by Connecticut's municipal inland wetlands agencies annually. The DEEP Inland Wetlands Management Section provides training, regulatory, and technical assistance to Connecticut's municipal inland wetlands agencies.

For more information visit us on the web at [www.ct.gov/deep/inlandwetlands](http://www.ct.gov/deep/inlandwetlands)  
Or contact us at (860) 424-3019

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## Aquifer Protection Area Program

In Connecticut, over two million people rely, at least in part, on ground water for their drinking supply. At particular risk are "stratified drift" (sand and gravel) aquifers supplying our larger public water supply wells. Despite current protection efforts many types of land uses continue to threaten ground water quality. To address this problem, Connecticut established the Aquifer Protection Area Program (CT General Statutes 22a-354a et. sec.). The purpose of the program is to identify critical water supply aquifer areas and to protect them from pollution by managing land use. To date, 122 active well fields in 80 Towns are being protected. The DEEP Aquifer Protection Area Program is responsible for overall program administration, establishing state land use regulations and standards, approving aquifer protection area maps and local regulations, assisting municipal aquifer protection agencies with program implementation, as well as developing training and guidance materials.

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