Potential Geology – Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) Associations

Early in the Study Process the Study Committee members were asked to identify potential geology-related ORVs. This list is a result of that discussion.

The geology in Collinsville, Unionville and Tariffville provided important pinch-points for industry to be located on the river;
The north-flowing floodplain stretching from Farmington to Simsbury was significant for its agricultural, biodiversity and its Native American archaeological artifact richness; etc. etc." Eric Hammerling

Upstream Study Area

Canton

Quarry for Collinsville Dam: gneiss.

Alluvial soil: Bristol Farm, strong Native American history (cultural landscape). Cynthia Griggs on the Study Committee knows a lot about the Native American history of the area.

Pinch-point in river in Collinsville has a natural rock dam that was a Native American fishing site. Site of village of Collinsville because of rapids: Collins Axe factory. David Leff, on Study Committee has a lot of knowledge of Collinsville history.

Burlington: no representative at meeting – we are trying to get information.

Farmington: Unionville is a part of Farmington – see Eric H's comments, above.

Flatwater Sections

Bill Moorhead says the flatwater section of the Farmington River from Farmington north to the Tariffville Gorge area in Simsbury supports rich biodiversity both in terms of natural communities and particular rare species.

Farmington

Sand and gravel operations (cultural landscape).
Alluvial floodplain agriculture and Native American History (cultural landscape).

Avon

Aquifer (for Avon Water Company) (water quality).
Alluvial floodplain as agricultural soil – The Pickin' Patch (cultural landscape).
Rare plant species: *Agastache scrophulariifolia* or Giant Purple Hyssop and *Silene stellata* or Starry campion (see Bill Moorhead 2002 Biodiversity report) (biodiversity).
Imperiled natural community (intact floodplain forest). Again, see Moorhead's report.
Nod Brook Wildlife Management Area: adjacent to river, state field trials for hunting dogs (cultural landscape, biodiversity).
Basalt ridge and its microenvironments, alkaline weathered soils.
Vernal pools.

Simsbury

Alluvial soils: farming- Rosedale Farm, Dewey's Flower Farm, Hall Farm on east side of river, Native American history (cultural landscape).

Basalt traprock ridges – microhabitats, rare species, hiking, hang gliding (biodiversity, recreation).

Diabase traprock on west side of town: rare plant species, hiking (biodiversity, recreation).

Ketchin Quarry – a former brownstone quarry, source of stone for Belden Building, originally the high school and now town hall, old part of Central School, Methodist Church in town center, Ensign Bickford complex buildings.

Simsbury Wildlife Management Area (SWMA): state owned, hunting allowed, and Baker property: town owned, abuts SWMA, no hunting (recreation, cultural landscape, biodiversity). Both properties are along river, with wetlands, natural levees, low flood plain forest.

East Granby

Tariffville Gorge starts in Tariffville, Simsbury (The Mill, now an office/studio building was previously a carpet mill), but the part of the gorge used for kayaking and canoeing is in East Granby and Bloomfield. (recreation and cultural landscape) Also a Native American and European fishing location, (cultural landscape) supports unusual annual plants or very hardy perennials (Bill Moorhead-biodiversity).

Newgate Coppermine (cultural landscape) and copper production, w/stamping mills on side streams and tributaries to Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

Bloomfield

Alluvial soils from glacial Lake Hitchcock – agriculture.

River corridor in Bloomfield is filled in with DEP Natural Diversity Database blobs.

At base of east slope of traprock ridge is Great Drain. Here is a description from the Master Plan of Development of Town of Bloomfield:

The Great Drain or the Griffin Brook Watershed, which runs adjacent to the Talcott Mountain Ridge, forms a valuable ecological system in Bloomfield together with the Ridge. The Great Drain is a superior red maple swamp because its soil is enriched by dissolved calcium that leaches out of the Ridge rock. As such, it is unusual for central Connecticut. The soil of the Great Drain supports abundant and diverse vegetation in a complete vertical stratification, which in turn supports diverse wildlife – amphibians, mammals and birds. In fact, over 100 species of bird have been sighted in the Great Drain and over forty are known to nest there. In addition, the Great Drain traps water run-off from the Ridge and has been known to hold up to five feet of water during the early spring. Protecting it means controlling flooding to the east of the Great Drain. Finally, the wetland plant species in the Great Drain neutralize pollutants, which is especially important as the water in the Great Drain flows northwards, and eventually into the Farmington River. Any ridgeline protection measures taken by the Town should include the Great Drain.

Windsor

Alluvial soil: Tobacco Valley (cultural landscape).

Northwest Park: sand plains, a critical habitat (biodiversity).

Salmon Brook

Granby

Diabase traprock, crags – McLean Game Refuge with one of Barndoor Hills. Granby Land Trust owns part of the other. (biodiversity, cultural landscape).

Enders Gorge in Enders State Forest (tributary to Salmon Brook and Huggins Gorge at Granby Tennis Club site (Salmon Brook) (recreation). Both gorges were surveyed in Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project. Huggins Gorge has rare plant species (biodiversity).

Hartland

The Hoosic Thrust Area.
The middle third of Hartland is extremely significant in every time period since the formation to the present day.
Indian summer camps, center of Hartland before the reservoir (Hartland Hollow), today provides water to over 400,000 Hartford County residents (Sue Murray's e-mail).