

Poquetanuck Cove Conservation Action Plan Intermunicipal Agreement



We, the undersigned chief elected officials, on behalf of our municipalities, recognize that:

1. Poquetanuck Cove is a regionally significant natural resource, described as the best brackish water tidal cove of the Thames River because of its healthy mosaic of abutting ecosystem types;
2. The cove is a State of Connecticut Bird Sanctuary and provides important feeding areas for migrating waterfowl, ospreys and American bald eagles, and nesting opportunities for Connecticut Greatest Conservation Needs bird species that depend on the forested coastal areas and marsh vegetation habitat;
3. Plant communities of the cove contribute to the overall quality of the habitat. Coastal forests support a multiplicity of birds and wildlife. The marshes of the cove contain a rich diversity of plant life, including multiple plant species listed as either endangered, rare or of special concern in Connecticut;
4. The cove is an important nursery ground for finfish, and fish that migrate from the Atlantic Ocean to freshwater streams pass through the cove on their annual journey to their inland breeding habitat;
5. Passive recreational opportunities, including boating, fishing, crabbing, bird watching and hiking, add to the physical and emotional health and enjoyment of town residents and attracts out of town visitors. A well managed cove enhances property values, provides protection from floods and storms, offers recreation and educational opportunities, scenic vistas, and is integral to sustaining our quality of life.

Furthermore, we understand that:

1. Management of land and water throughout the watershed is key to sustaining the health of the cove. Therefore, municipal policies that support wise land use decisions and best management practices are essential;
2. Clean air and water, flood security and ample recreational opportunities provided by a well managed watershed are essential for maintaining public health and welfare; and
3. A healthy watershed ecosystem is consistent with each municipality's goals of promoting a vibrant community, preserving town character, fostering ecological integrity, maintaining public health and safety and nurturing sustainable economic growth.

Therefore, the Towns of Ledyard and Preston, Connecticut enter into this voluntary compact that acknowledges their commitment to work cooperatively to balance conservation and growth by:

1. Protecting and restoring the natural resources of the watershed;
2. Reviewing land use regulations and municipal practices and adapting them to be compatible with the goals of this Poquetanuck Cove Conservation Action Plan Intermunicipal Agreement;
3. Supporting efforts to link and maintain ecologically viable habitats and riverine connectivity, and;
4. Ensuring the long-term environmental health, vitality and security of the Poquetanuck Cove watershed to enhance the social and economic strength of our communities.

John Rodolico, Mayor of Ledyard

Date

Robert Congdon, Preston First Selectman

Date