



# Proposed Changes to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations

## Information for Residents

### Introduction

The Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) is proposing changes to the regulations as a tool to better protect the indispensable, irreplaceable and fragile natural resources in our municipality.

### What is an Upland Review Area?

An Upland Review Area (URA) is a defined area outside of but adjacent to wetlands and watercourses. It is adopted to facilitate the protection of these resources by ensuring that when regulated activities occur Best Management Practices (BMPs) are implemented. The BMPs reduce the potential that sediment, nutrients and other pollutants resulting from activity occurring in the Upland Review Area do not negatively impact our wetlands and watercourses.

The URA is **NOT** a prohibitory setback or ecological buffer. It merely triggers a review of activities proposed within the area to determine whether the activity requires a permit.

### What Does it Mean for Me?

Many properties already fall within the URA. If your property is affected by the increased URA, you will generally need to apply for a wetland permit for activities on your property which include earth moving, clearing, grubbing, grading, discharging stormwater, clear cutting or installing an impervious surface.

Activities should be reviewed on an individual basis to ensure that you are using the best possible techniques during construction to protect the health and viability of our inland wetland and watercourse resources.

For more information, please visit [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us) or contact the Land Use Office

### How did the IWWC come up with the URA?

As the science of wetland and watercourses protection evolved, so did the knowledge that activities adjacent to these resources could negatively impact them.

In 1997, the Connecticut DEP issued guidelines for URA Regulations suggesting a 100 ft. review area. In 2006, the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) published a position statement supporting the inclusion of a 100 ft. URA in the municipal wetlands regulations as a minimum area of review to properly assess the potential impacts of a proposed activity on inland wetlands and watercourses.

Most towns in Connecticut have 100 ft. URAs and many have extended the review area around specific and significant water resources. Currently, Salisbury's URA is 75+ ft. The IWWC would like to increase that in accordance with DEP and CACIWC recommendations.

### Goals

1. Increased storm water detention
2. Increased water infiltration
3. Decreased nutrient loading
4. Decreased sediment loading
5. Increased public awareness
6. Increased water quality protection