

“Allowed” Activities in the Upland Review Area Not Requiring a Permit

It is the public policy of the State of Connecticut to require municipal regulation of activities affecting inland wetlands and watercourses. The Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) is the local agency tasked with this responsibility. It is through a combination of regulation by the Town and good stewardship of wetland resources and the associated Upland Review Areas (URA) on behalf of landowners, that we will be able to protect our environment and ecology “in order to forever guarantee to the people of the state, the safety of such natural resources for their benefit and enjoyment and for the benefit and enjoyment of generations yet unborn.”

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act designates the specific power to hear, consider and decide upon applications for regulated activities involving inland wetlands and watercourses (including activities in the URA) and to determine whether proposed activities are exempt from, or otherwise not subject to regulation.

To that end, the IWWC has developed a list of routine activities that are permissible within the URA and do not require prior approval by the IWWC. However, if the scope of work in the URA exceeds the items listed below, it will require a review by the IWWC or its agent to ensure that wetland resources are properly protected.

The following activities are for the URA ONLY. Activities within wetlands and watercourses require review and possibly a permit from the IWWC. If you have any questions, kindly consult with the Land Use Office for the Town of Salisbury at landuse@salisburyct.us or (860) 435-5190.

Protecting the precious wetlands is a joint responsibility of all within our community. We thank you for your cooperation.

On an established residential property, the following routine activities occurring in the Upland Review Area (not a wetland or watercourse) do not require application to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses or its Agent.

- a. **Mowing an existing lawn.** *Note: Wetland buffers, regardless of their precise size, provide a multitude of valuable functions that contribute to the overall health and functionality of wetland ecosystems. Even small un-mowed buffers offer valuable protection for wetlands. Increasing the size of a buffer will increase the level of protection.*
- b. **Weeding, planting, fertilizing, or mulching of already existing landscaping, including garden areas.** *Note: Use of fertilizers within the URA should be minimized as it contributes to nutrient loading within wetland ecosystems.*
- c. **Care and maintenance of existing shrubs and trees including pruning or removal of dead limbs or targeted application of pesticides.** *Pesticides shall be used in accordance with specifications in the corresponding product label. Use of pesticides in the URA should be minimized. Use of pesticides in the waterbody*

(aquatic applications) requires a permit by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Pesticides Division.

- d. Hand removal or spot treatment of invasive (ex; Japanese barberry) or nuisance plants (ex. poison ivy).** Pesticides(including herbicides) shall be used in accordance with specifications in the corresponding product label. Generally, the IWWC is in support of invasive management. Use of pesticides in the URA should be minimized. Use of pesticides in the waterbody (aquatic applications) requires a permit by DEEP Pesticides Division.
- e. Yard cleaning, including clearing away fallen leaves and branches in an existing lawn or landscaped area as long as yard debris, leaves, or mulch are not blown or deposited on a wetland or watercourse.**
- f. Removal of only dead, dying, or fallen trees that threaten structures or access ways *but not including stump grinding or grubbing*.** If more than five (5) trees are involved, consult with the Land Use Office.
- g. Planting of a flower, herb or vegetable garden, shrubs and trees that involve less than 500 square feet disturbance.** A disturbance greater than 500 square feet requires review by the IWWC or its agent. The IWWC encourages the use of native (or native cultivar) shrubs.
- h. Maintenance and repair of existing structures including cleaning, painting, roofing, and septic pump-out.** Activities involving earth moving or disturbance such as driveway and septic repairs require review by the Commission or its Agent.
- i. Storage of water-dependent structures and equipment including docks and boats.**

When in doubt, please check with the Land Use Office