

WOOD TURTLE AND DEVELOPMENT FACT SHEET

Pope/Trotta Riparian Ecosystem, Salisbury CT

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Environmental Land Use Planning
POB 8 Falls Village CT 06031
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72.3-acre study area composed of two Town-owned parcels: Trotta (12.9 acres) and Pope (59.4 acres).

TROTТА

7.4 acres for pre-existing recreation, Day Care, and SVNA uses

5.5 acres placed into a proposed conservation easement for the conservation of wood turtles and other wildlife and plant species.

- 4 acres wood turtle restoration area
- 1.5 acres wood turtle management area

POPE

- 6.1 acres for recreation
- 6.6 acres for housing
- 36.6 acres for wood turtle conservation in its natural state + 8.3 acres wood turtle management = 44.9 acres placed into a proposed conservation easement for the conservation of wood turtles and other wildlife and plant species.
- 1.8 acres not allocated to any use at present including the hedgerow separating the recreation parcel and the housing parcel, as well as a small area at the NW corner of the Pope Property bordering the Rail Trail and Wachocastinook Brook.

Next recommended steps

1. Eliminate the boundary between the Pope and Trotta parcels.
2. Create three new parcels:
 - Recreation (including SVNA and Day Care) totally 13.5 acres
 - Housing 6.6 acres
 - Conservation (includes management and restoration areas) 50.4 acres. DEEP will provide the necessary language for that easement.

- Determine what is the best way to deal with the 1.8 acres (in two disjunct pieces) on the Pope property. They could be attached to the contiguous housing, recreation, or rail trail parcels. Suggest discussing with Mat Kieffer the most logical way to do this.
3. Develop a wood turtle conservation and management plan. The NDDDB has given preliminary feedback on the proposed conservation areas but there will need to be a written management plan. That will be completed in the next month with input from various experts, both in the private sector and DEEP. It is the consensus of various experts and NDDDB that the wood turtle is the primary conservation driver for the conservation and management of these parcels.

Topics include, but are not limited to, the restoration plan for the 4 acres of Trotta Field that are being returned to natural habitat. This includes a small area of fen-like habitat. We are hoping to have Willian Moorhead from the DEEP/NDDDB look at that small area of fen and give his advice on best management practices.

The management regimen for the field area that is being incorporated into the wood turtle management area, including an appropriate mowing regimen (time of year for cutting and appropriate types of mower blades) and the enhancement of the field by planting herbaceous native species that are important for pollinators. Because of the small size of the field habitat, a kestrel box would not be advised according to the preliminary NDDDB review.

A management plan to restore the wooded portions of the wood turtle management area that area heavily impacted by non-native invasive species including barberry, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and knotweed in a manner that will not impact wood turtles using the area.

Design and execution of a permanent wood turtle exclusion fence and a monitoring regimen for that fence to ensure its integrity as well as the overall conservation easement.