

## ***Resources for assembling information on land to conserve***

### **Internet resources**

- Aerial photos
  - TerraServer.com: <http://www.terraserver.com>
  - TerraServer-USA: <http://terraserver.microsoft.com/>
  - Google Earth: <http://earth.google.com/>
    - Note: Exact date of images is unknown for Google Earth.
    - Note: For Google Earth and TerraServer-USA, you can use the “screen capture” function to save the image on your screen.
- Topographic maps
  - TerraServer-USA: <http://terraserver.microsoft.com/>
  - TerraServer.com: <http://www.terraserver.com>
- Property location maps
  - RandMcNally: <http://www.randmcnally.com/>
  - Other online mapping services, such as <http://maps.google.com> and <http://www.mapquest.com>
- Plan of Conservation and Development maps by town
  - CT Office of Policy and Management has PDF files of these maps, available by town and regional planning agency: [http://www.opm.state.ct.us/igp/cd\\_access/index.htm](http://www.opm.state.ct.us/igp/cd_access/index.htm)
- Soil maps
  - Web Soil Survey, from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, plus a tutorial on its use: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
- Endangered species
  - CT Dept. of Environmental Protection has PDF files of generalized threatened/endangered species occurrence (specific species are *not* identified), available by town: <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/naturalresources/endangeredspecies/nddbpdfs.asp>
- Habitat or land cover
  - Community Resource Inventory, an interactive website, run by UConn & Connecticut NEMO program with CT Dept. of Environmental Protection data – and there are friendly instructions on its use: <http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/cr/interactive.htm>
- Wetland areas
  - The federal National Wetlands Inventory, searchable by ZIP code: <http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/NWI/index.html>
  - This data is pretty much ideal, but the website is confusing, so here are quick instructions:
    - Go to <http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/NWI/index.html>.
    - Click on “Wetlands Mapper” in the sidebar to the left. A new window pops up that provides links to 1) a tutorial on how to use this service, and 2) the maps and geographic information. Feel free to take the tutorial, or forge ahead.
    - Click on “Lower 48 States.” A new window pops up.

- There is a menu of various tabs across the top of the window. Click on “Locate.” Then click on “Locate a Zip Code.” Space for you to enter a zip code will appear on the right-hand side of the screen. Enter your property’s zip code and click “Go.”
  - A map of your zip code appears. Across the top of the window are some tools for zooming in and out, and you can move the view along the compass directions by clicking the edges of the map.
  - When you’re satisfied with the view of the wetlands on and around your protected property, click “Print PDF” in the menu across the top. You can title your map in the spaces that appear in the right-hand sidebar. Then click “OK.” When the “Map created successfully” message appears, click “Open map” to bring up your PDF. The map is automatically created with a detailed legend. You can save the map as a PDF file on your computer.
  - For help understanding the codes used to label different types of wetlands on the map, return to the first webpage (<http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/NWI/index.html>), and click on “Wetlands Codes” in the sidebar to the left.
- Aquifer protection areas
  - CT Dept. of Environmental Protection has PDF files of maps by town: [http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2685&q=322248&depNav\\_GID=1654](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2685&q=322248&depNav_GID=1654)
- GIS (Geographic Information Systems) – in which one program includes many layers of geographic data, including some of the types of data listed here
  - The best source: Community Resource Inventory, an interactive website, run by UConn & Connecticut NEMO program with CT Dept. of Environmental Protection data – and there are friendly instructions on its use: <http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/cr/interactive.htm>
  - Paid versions of Google Earth: <http://earth.google.com/>
  - CT Dept. of Environmental Protection spatial data available online: [http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2701&q=323444&depNav\\_GID=1636](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2701&q=323444&depNav_GID=1636)
  - UConn Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC): <http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/>
- Note: this list is not comprehensive! Feel free to explore new sources.

### **Professional resources**

- Surveyor for survey
- Appraiser for appraisal
- Attorney for landowner acknowledgement of a baseline documentation report’s accuracy, the easement summary, and legal information about the property
- Biologist, ecologist, or other natural scientist for natural resources inventory, if protecting habitat, water quality, etc.
- Architect, historian, or anthropologist for historic inventory, if protecting historic buildings or other historic features

### Resources from public agencies

- Tax maps, assessor's cards, etc.
  - Town hall
- Mapping and info on soils and other natural resources
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Knowledge of natural and historic resources
  - Universities and state agencies

### Photopoint maps

- Take an aerial photo or other map to the property with you and mark photo locations on it as you take them.
- Label each point on the map with the photo number and the compass direction you were facing when you took the photo.
- If you have a GPS device, you can also take a GPS (Global Positioning System) reading in the spot where you take each photo, and then coordinate the GPS points with an aerial photo or other map on the computer
  - There are some programs for working with GPS points available online, including paid versions of Google Earth. One free program is Gartrip, available at <http://www.gartrip.de>

### Information on documenting protected properties in general

- The Land Trust Alliance website (<http://www.lta.org>)
- *The Conservation Easement Handbook*, published by Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance, which can be purchased from the Land Trust Alliance

### Things to keep in mind:

- \* **Be sure to give credit** to the sources of your images and information.
- \* **About PDF files:** Visit <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/> to download the free Adobe Reader program, which you need in order to view PDF files.
- \* **These resources are useful for many purposes** ... assembling baseline documentation reports, supporting grant applications to the Dept. of Environmental Protection, making maps for outreach and fundraising materials, and so on.