

# FARMLAND SOILS ESSEX, CONNECTICUT

## LEGEND

**Prime Farmland Soils** are those soils that have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oil seed crops, and are also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, range-land, forestland, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields or crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming practices.

**Statewide Important Farmland Soils** are those soils that fail to meet one or more of the requirements of prime farmland, but are important for the production of food, feed, fiber, or forage crops. They include those soils that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

**Locally Important Farmland Soils** are those soils that are not prime or statewide importance but are used for the production of high value food, fiber or horticultural crops. This land may be important to the local economy due to its productivity or value. Includes locally important farmland soils for the towns of Ashford, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Lebanon, Milford, New Milford, and Norfolk.

- Open Water
- River, Brook, Stream
- Town Boundary
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Interstate Highway
- US Route Highway
- State Route Highway
- Highway Ramp
- Local Road
- Railroad

## EXPLANATION

This map identifies land that is defined as prime farmland, statewide important farmland or locally important farmland based on soil type, in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, CFR title 7, part 657. It identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses.

This map is prepared as a guide to identify the location and extent of those lands that have productive soils. Those lands may qualify to be protected in the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) which is reauthorized in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) to protect working agricultural land from conversion to nonagricultural uses and in the

Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Farmland Preservation Program's goal of securing a food and fiber producing land resource base for the future of agriculture in CT.

As the minimum size delineation is approximately 3 acres, this map does not show all the soils designated as farmland soils. This map does not necessarily portray land that is used currently for farms. It identifies productive soils that are suitable to be farmed.

This map does not incorporate current land use changes which may affect the farmland soil designation.

## DATA SOURCES

**SOIL DATA** - Soil map units shown on this map are from the 2007 Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) database produced by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The soils were mapped at a scale of 1:12,000 with a minimum size delineation of three acres. Enlargement of this map beyond the original source scale will not show additional detail and can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping. For the most recent soils data contact the NRCS.

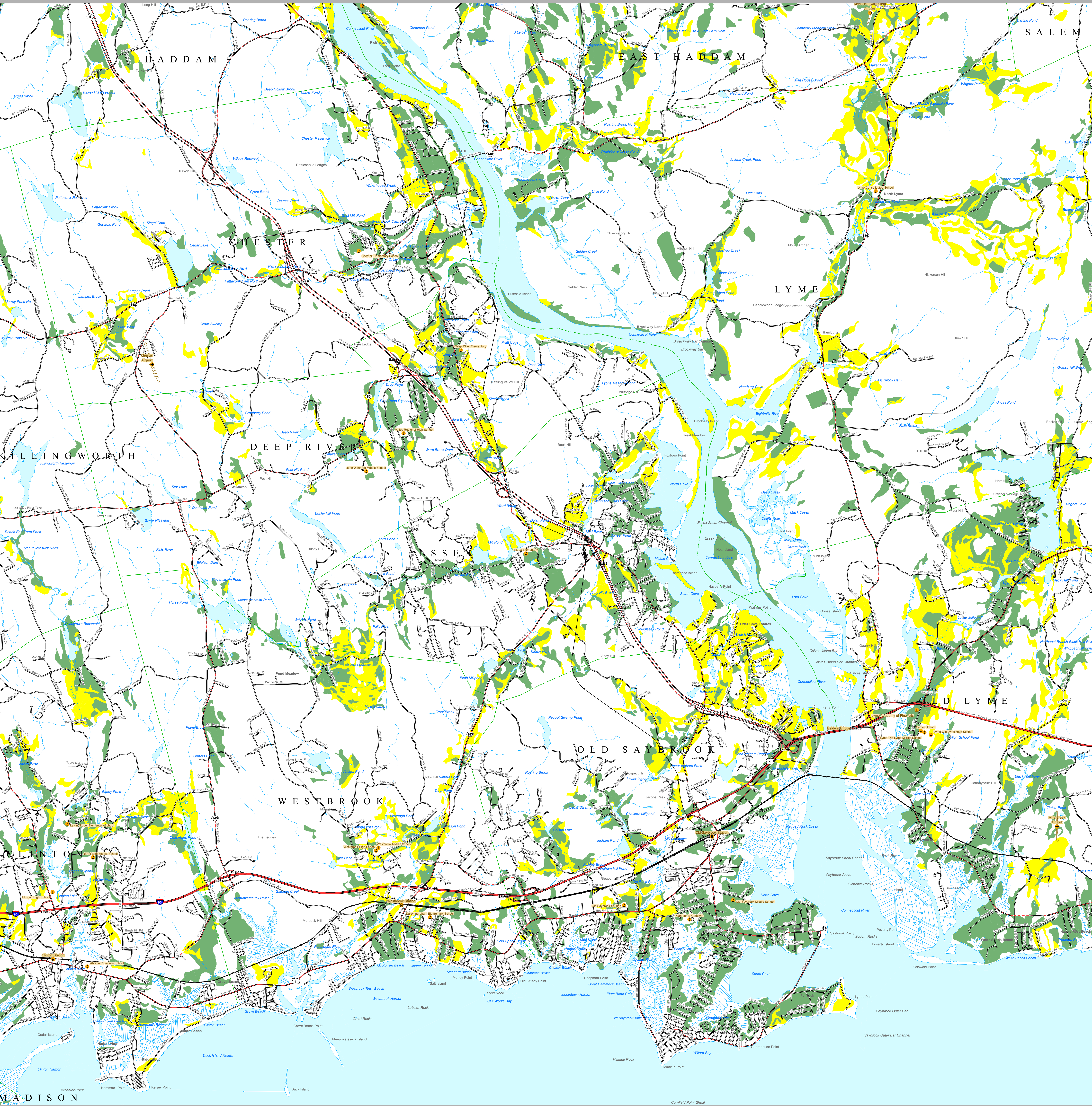
**BASE MAP DATA** - Based on data originally from 1:24,000-scale USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle maps published between 1969 and 1992. It includes political boundaries, railroads, airports,

hydrography, geographic names and geographic places. Streets and street names are from Tele Atlas copyrighted data. Base map information is neither current nor complete.

### RELATED INFORMATION

This map is intended to be printed at its original dimensions in order to maintain the 1:24,000 scale (1 inch = 2000 feet).

**MAPS AND DIGITAL DATA** - Visit the CT ECO website for this map and a variety of others. Visit the NRCS soils website for the soils data shown on this map. Visit the CT DEP website to download the base map digital spatial data shown on this map.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
79 Elm Street  
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Map prepared by CT DEP  
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Map is not colorfast  
Protect from light and moisture



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural  
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Service

This 5050 is a state opportunity number and address.