

# HYDRIC SOILS

## MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

### LEGEND

**Hydric Soils** are those soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. Under natural conditions, these soils are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

**Not Rated** soils have characteristics that show extreme variability from one location to another. Often these areas are urban land complexes or miscellaneous areas. An on-site investigation is required to determine soil conditions present at the site.

- 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 is prepared as a guide to identify the general location of soil map units **dominated** by soils that meet the definition of hydric criteria and, in addition, have at least one of the hydric soil indicators. These soils identified can help in land use planning, conservation planning, and assessment of potential wildlife habitat, however, onsite investigation is recommended to determine the hydric soils on a specific site.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). Under natural conditions, these soils are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation (wetland indicator plant species). Soils that are sufficiently wet because of artificial measures are included in the concept of hydric soils. Also, soils in which the hydrology has been artificially modified are hydric if the soil, in an unaltered state, was hydric. In order to determine whether a specific soil is a hydric soil or nonhydric soil, however, more specific information, such as information about the depth and duration of the water table, is needed. Thus, criteria that identify those estimated soil properties unique to hydric soils have been established (Federal Register, 2002). For more information on the criteria, on the Internet go to <http://soils.usda.gov/use/hydric/>.

A combination of the hydric soil, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydrology properties define wetlands as described in the National Food Security Act Manual (Soil Conservation Service, 1994) and the Corps of Engineers (COE) Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and COE Regional Supplements. Therefore, an area that meets the hydric soil definition must also meet the hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology definitions in order for it to be correctly classified as a jurisdictional wetland.

The complete list of map units with each map unit component, hydric status, and specific hydric soils criteria status may be accessed through the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eTOFG) at the Connecticut NRCS website ([www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov)).

### DATA SOURCES

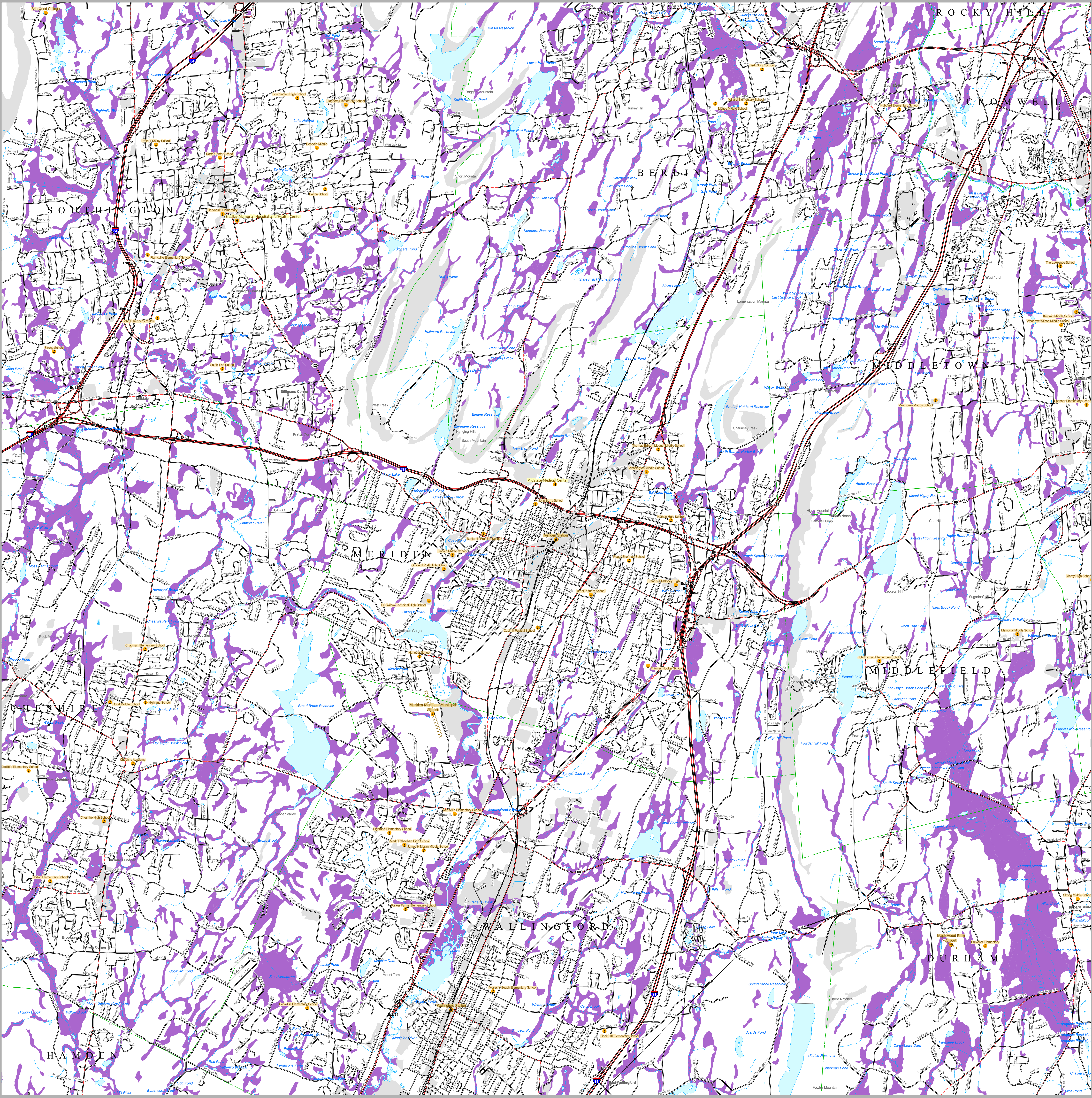
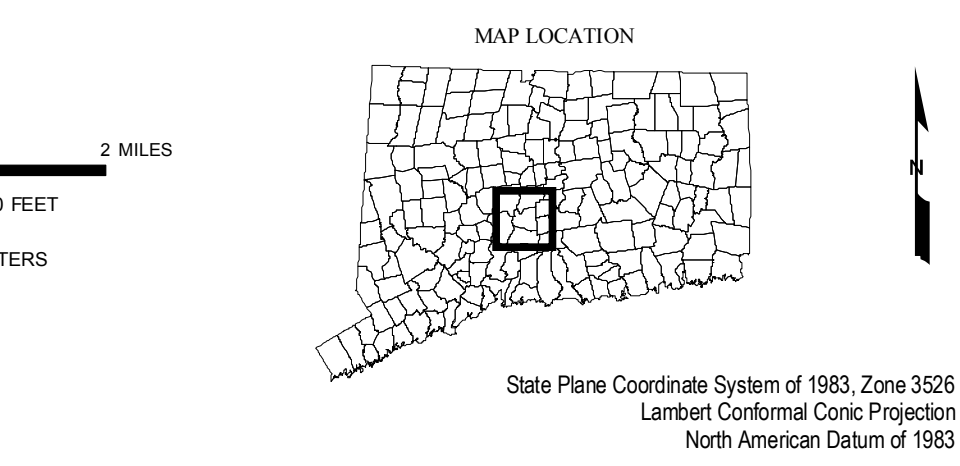
**SOIL DATA** - Soil map units shown on this map are from the 2007 Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) database produced by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The soils were mapped at a scale of 1:12,000 with a minimum size delineation of three acres. Enlargement of this map 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 = 2,000 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.



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Map prepared by CT DEP  
October 2009  
Map is not colorfast  
Protect from light and moisture

