NATURAL DRAINAGE BASINS

MAJOR, REGIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND LOCAL
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

LEGEND

Basin Boundary

- Major Basin
- Regional Basin
- Subregional Basin
- Local Basin

Local Drainage Basin Direction

- Outlet Direction
- Main Stem Direction
- Coastal Direction

Elevation

- High - 2,413 FT
- Low - 1 FT

EXPLANATION

This map shows the location and identification number of major, regional, subregional, and local drainage basins. It is intended to serve as a municipal guide for drainage basin delineation and identification. Local basins make up larger subregional, regional, and major drainage basin areas and are differentiated by their drainage basin boundary type and identification numbers. Arrows on the map represent general direction of surface water flow within local drainage basins. Local outlet direction is shown in purple. Main stem direction is shown in red. Coastal direction is shown in blue.

A 7-digit drainage basin number such as 4302-02 uniquely identifies local drainage basin areas shown on this map. Drainage basin areas are numbered sequentially beginning upstream and proceeding downstream. The identification numbers are hierarchical. The first digit (column 1) identifies the major basin, the first two digits (columns 1-2) identify the regional basin, the first 4 digits (columns 1-4) identify the subregional basin, and the first seven digits (columns 1-7) identify the local basin. For example, 4, 43, and 4302 are the major, regional and subregional basin numbers for local basin number 4302-02. As illustrated in the diagram below, this signifies that local basin number 4302-02 is part of subregional basin 4302, which is part of regional basin 43, which is part of major basin 4.

Drainage basin boundaries shown on this map were manually delineated by interpreting the 10 foot contour lines and hydrography features shown on USGS 1:24,000-scale topographic quadrangle maps. Only limited field checking was conducted to verify the location of these basin boundaries. Basin boundaries may not be accurate in areas that have been diked for flood control, upland wetland and reservoirs having outlets into two basins, areas where topographic mapping is not up to date, is inaccurate, or is not detailed enough to adequately define local drainage. Residential and commercial development, highway construction, and other changes to the landscape may have resulted in local modifications to the natural drainage pattern since the time these basin boundaries were delineated.

In order to create a three-dimensional effect, this map uses gradational shades of color rather than contour lines to depict elevation. Areas of low elevation in Connecticut are shown in light blue. Areas slightly higher in elevation are shown in light yellow, followed by green, orange, red, brown, gray, and white for the highest elevated areas in Connecticut. The three-dimensional effect is also achieved by showing shadows cast on high ground as if sunlight is shining from the northwestern direction. As a result, the northwestern side of elevated areas is intentionally lighter in color than the southeastern side. Relatively flat areas are not shadowed and appear smooth, whereas steeper slopes appear rough with the southeastern side appearing darker in color. The elevation colors shown on this map do not represent vegetation or climate regions. For a more absolute determination of elevation for locations within a basin, refer to the companion map of Natural Drainage Basins that depicts elevation as contour lines instead of shaded relief.

Note: The major, regional and subregional drainage basin boundaries shown on this map are the same as those published on the 1:125,000-scale state map entitled Natural Drainage Basins in Connecticut, McElroy, 1981. The basin boundaries shown on this town map were digitized from the 1:24,000-scale compilation sheets used to publish the state map of Natural Drainage Basins in Connecticut, 1981.

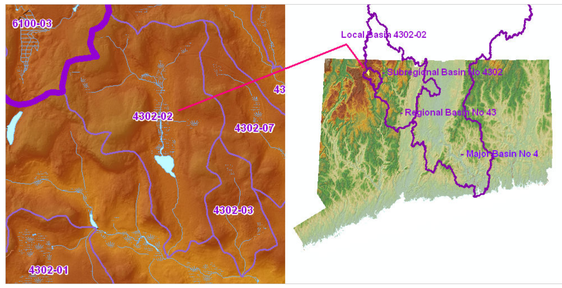


Figure 1. Example showing a typical local drainage basin and the subregional, regional, and major drainage basin it is part of.

DATA SOURCES

LOCAL DRAINAGE BASIN DATA – The drainage basin information shown on this map is based on the following digital spatial datasets: Connecticut Local Basin Line and Local Basin Poly. These two datasets were developed by CT DEP and depict major, regional, subregional, and local basin drainage areas and boundaries at 1:24,000-scale. These data depict drainage areas for Connecticut rivers, streams, brooks, lakes, reservoirs and ponds published on 1:24,000-scale 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle maps prepared by the USGS between 1969 and 1984.

SHADED RELIEF ELEVATION DATA – The data used to depict elevation on this map was obtained the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). The three-dimensional effect was created using a ground elevation and a hill shade dataset the University of Connecticut derived from Connecticut's 2000 statewide LiDAR dataset.

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.

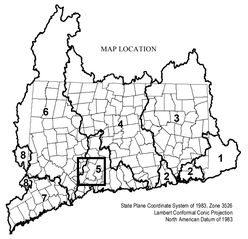
RELATED INFORMATION

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

To identify either all upstream basins draining to or all downstream basins flowing from a particular location, refer to the Gazetteer of Drainage Basin Areas of Connecticut, Nosal, 1977, CT DEP Water Resources Bulletin 15, for the hydrologic sequence, headwater to outfall, of drainage basins.

MAPS AND DIGITAL DATA - Visit the CT ECO website for this map and a variety of others in PDF format. Visit the CT DEP website to download the digital spatial data shown on this map.

MAP LOCATION



MAJOR BASINS

1 Pawcatuck
2 Southeast Coast
3 Thames
4 Connecticut
5 South Central Coast
6 Housatonic
7 Southwest Coast
8 Hudson

State Plane Coordinate System of 1983, Zone 3526
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
North American Datum of 1983

SCALE 1:24,000 (1 inch = 2000 feet) when map is printed at original size (48 x 36 in)

Map created by CT DEP
January 2010

Map is not colorfast
Protect from light and moisture

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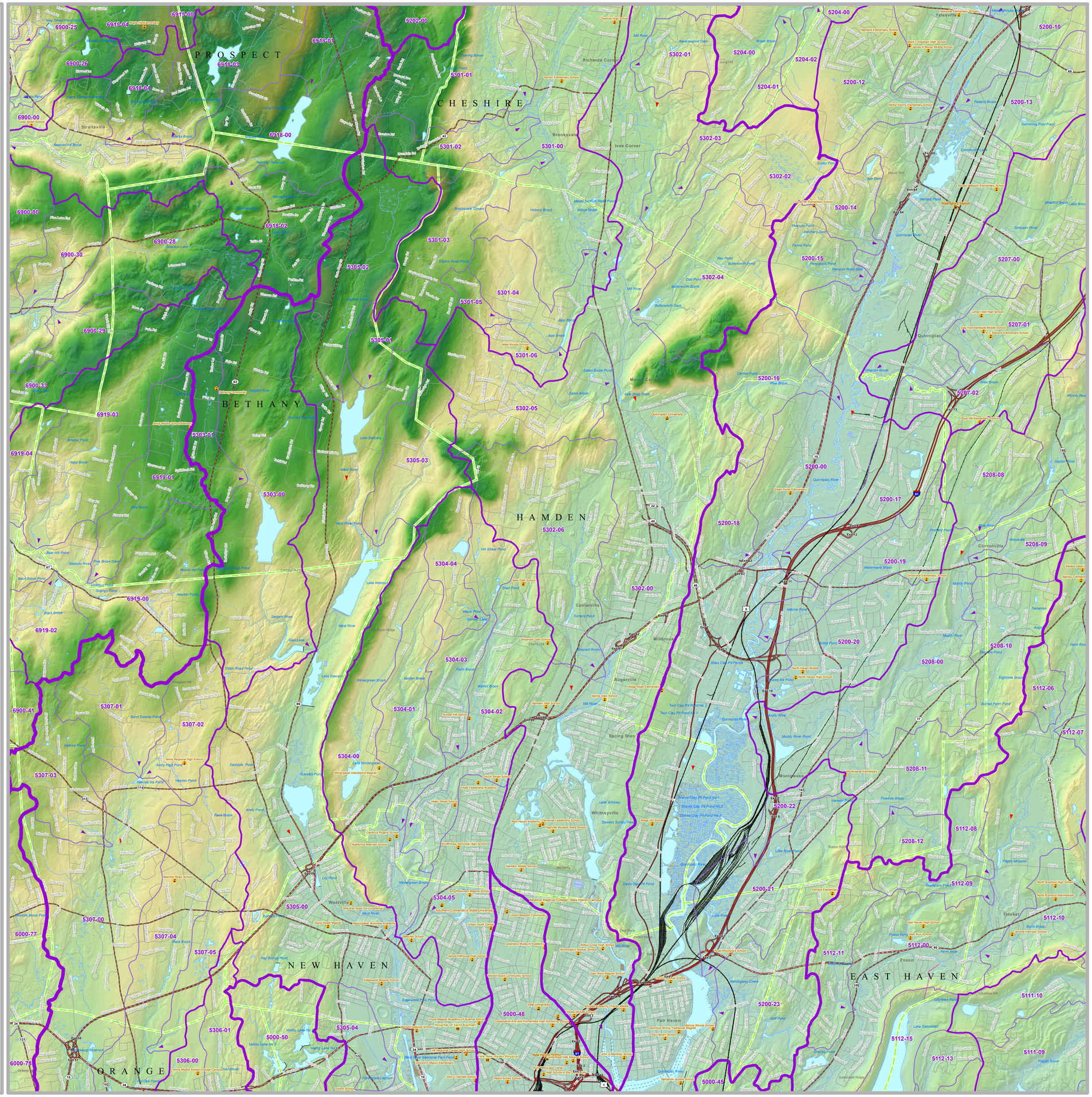
CLEAR
Center for Land Use Education & Research