

HOUSATONIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION PROJECT  
CONNECTICUT SUBCOUNCIL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RECEIVED  
JAN 17 2007  
ISLAND FISHERIES

**Part A: RESPONDER AND PROJECT SUMMARY FORM**

Please read "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" before completing this form.

Part A must be completed using Submittal Form A. Responses may be entered electronically using the Microsoft Word version of Part A of this form available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website (www.housatonicrestoration.org), saved and printed. Alternatively, the responder may print the form and complete it with black ink. An Adobe Acrobat version of the entire form (Part A and Part B) is also available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website

**Project Name** Provide a brief working name.

Campville Fishing Access

**Responder** – if there is more than one party involved in the project, please provide the information for the primary or lead party.

Town of Harwinton

Name

Open Space Committee, Frank Chiamonte, First Selectman

Title

Town Hall

Address

Bentley Drive

Address

Harwinton CT 06791

City State Zip

860-485-9051

Phone

1stselectman@harwinton.us

Email

**Type of Entity**

Check the box that best describes the primary respondent.

Private individual

Non-profit organization

Municipal government

State government

County government

Federal government

Tribal government

Corporation or Business

Academic Institution

Other (explain)

**Project Implementation**

Does the responder plan to be the Project Sponsor and respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) pending approval of this Proposal?

Yes  No

If yes, please list any other project participants. \_\_\_\_\_

If the responder does **NOT** plan to be the Project Sponsor and does **NOT** intend to respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), is the responder interested in being a project participant and assisting a different Project Sponsor on this project?

Yes  No

**Request for Proposals:**

**Restoration Priority Funding Category** See Sec. 3 of "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for category descriptions.

**Primary Restoration Category.** Check the restoration category that is the primary goal of the project.

Check one box.

- Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

**Secondary Categories.** Check all relevant boxes.

- Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

**List Specific Injured Natural Resources and/or Impaired Natural Resource Services to Benefit from Project**

Acquisition of open space will provide fishing access to an important trout and salmon fisheries resource for many residents of the Torrington, Bristol, and Waterbury areas that were discouraged from fishing and consuming fish from the Housatonic River due its PCB contamination. The project will also provide permanent protection of riparian habitat that would replace natural habitat lost on the Housatonic River, due to PCB remediation directly below Pittsfield Mass.

**Project Location** (if known) See directions and "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for additional materials to provide (maps, aerial photographs)

Municipality/ies:

Harwinton

Longitude for approximate center of project area: 41o, 42', 30" 22

Latitude for approximate center of project area: 73o, 07', 30" 57

**Project Budget Estimate** (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ 100,000

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ 100,000

Housatonic River Natural Resource Restoration Project  
**Part B**

**Campville Fishing Access**

Sponsored by the Harwinton Open Space Committee\*

**Item 1. - Project Narrative**

1) Goals and Objectives: The Harwinton Open Space Committee seeks to acquire ownership of several private parcels of land located along the Naugatuck River in the Campville section of town. Most of these parcels are currently posted against trespass, thus preventing angler access to the River from the adjacent town road (Valley Road). Acquisition of all these properties for open space would ensure permanent fishing access along a contiguous, mile-long river corridor. Fishing access within this area would help restore lost fishing opportunities for residents of the Torrington-Bristol-Waterbury area, who no longer fish the Housatonic River due to its PCB contamination. A secondary goal of the project would be to conserve the riparian corridor of the river, which has had a history of gravel mining. Gravel mining in this area remains a threat to the river and its riparian corridor. A future possibility might be to use the parcels for access of equipment to install instream devices (rock deflectors, anchored woody material, etc) that would improve physically impaired sections (from past gravel removal) of the river. It is our intent to maintain the river corridor section acquired through Natural Resource Damages (NRD) funds as permanent open space so that public access and habitat protection would last in perpetuity. Thus, this project would provide two of three primary goals for NRD funding (1: Restoration/ Enhancement of Recreational Uses, and 2: Riparian & Floodplain Restoration/ Enhancement). Because this project could provide for some habitat improvement in the future, the third major goal of NRD funding (Aquatic Restoration/ Enhancement) could be achieved. Further, we hope to enlist public participation from local anglers, organized anglers (Northwest Chapter of Trout Unlimited), and the general public. Their participation will help to develop good stewardship of the River into the future.

2) – Project Benefits: The Housatonic River in the Cornwall-Sharon area supported one of the most important trout stream fisheries in the State. Prior to the late 1970s, this section of river was heavily stocked with trout (about 20,000 trout/yr). Because the Cornwall-Sharon section of the Housatonic River was located in a rural, less-densely populated area of the State, many of the anglers using the River would have been from the more-heavily populated, Torrington-Bristol-Waterbury area. Many Housatonic River anglers sought to harvest trout for consumption. That opportunity was lost when the river was found to be contaminated with PCBs in 1976. Since that time, the Naugatuck River in the Harwinton-Litchfield area (“the Campville Stretch”) has seen a great improvement in water quality and is now stocked by the DEP with trout and Atlantic salmon broodstock (Appendix A). The Campville Stretch is one of only three areas in Connecticut where the salmon broodstock are stocked for recreational fishing. The Campville Stretch is very scenic and has become a popular fishing destination for anglers within the Torrington-Waterbury area, and beyond. It is also a large river, and facilitates fly fishing opportunities similar to that of the Housatonic River. However, much of the Campville stretch is remote, difficult to access, or posted against trespass. Providing better access will help replace fishing/ consumption opportunities that were lost on the Housatonic River, and will be greeted with great enthusiasm by many anglers. Although the Campville Stretch of the Naugatuck River



lies outside of the primary area for NRD funding, it likely services most of the anglers who were displaced from the Housatonic River when it became contaminated with PCBs.

Acquiring public land within the Campville Stretch will help maintain a natural riparian corridor from the Thomaston Dam to the RT 118 crossing, a distance of about 6 miles. This same area lies within the proposed Naugatuck River Greenway (Phase II Report: Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials). Acquisition of parcels for fishing access using NRD funds could be the impetus for acquiring or gaining easements on additional riparian lands from other funding sources (such as Recreational Trail Grants). It is anticipated that various angler groups, hiking groups, and the Harwinton Land Trust may also contribute support for acquiring additional parcels within the Naugatuck River Greenway.

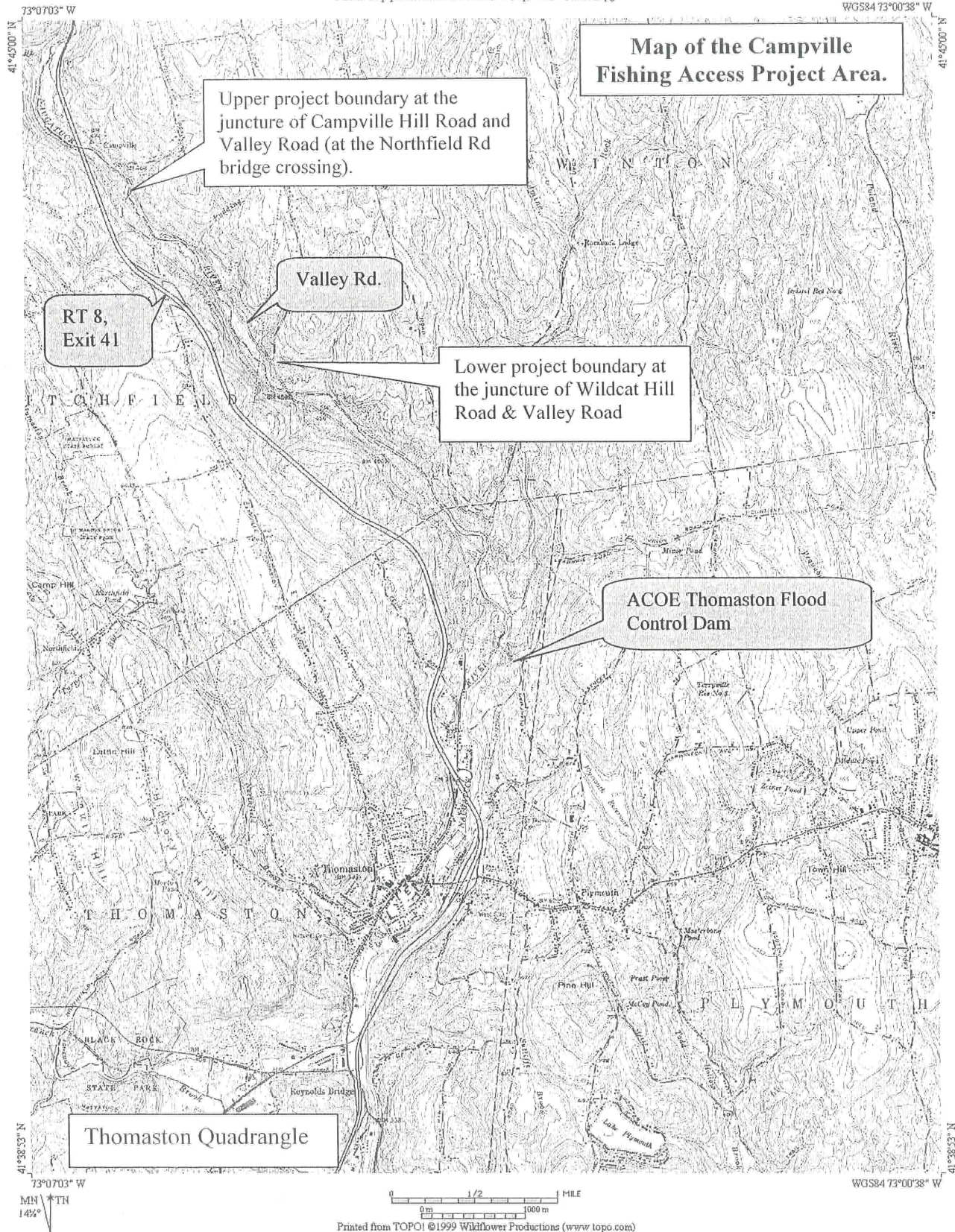
Another benefit of this project is that the Campville parcels (see Appendix B) can be purchased at minimal cost/acre. Campville was a thriving area prior to the flood of 1955. To protect more populated downstream areas, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) built the Thomaston Flood Control Dam on the Naugatuck River. The ACOE then purchased flooding rights from the owners of properties upstream of the dam along Valley Road. Because owners of these properties can no longer build on them, land values are greatly reduced. Although the flooding easements prevent development, owners can still mine gravel, clear cut their forests, and prohibit access to the river. Thus, relatively large parcels that are important for fishing and other recreational purposes, as well as for riparian corridor protection, can be obtained at minimal cost. Costs of properties along Valley Road would be especially low when compared to costs for land within the Cornwall-Sharon area of the Housatonic River, where land values are high due to the influx of wealth from the New York metropolitan area.

3) – General Tasks: If our project is found to be eligible for funding, the Open Space Committee will rate the importance of each of the parcels with respect to various factors, such as acreage, assessed value, ease of access to the river, possibility for designated off-road parking areas, threats from mining or clear cutting, and proximity to impaired river stretches that could be renovated. All owners of properties receiving a high rating (primarily for fishing access and parking) will be contacted and informed of the possibility of receiving fair market compensation for the purchase of their land. The appraised value (2003) of the properties could be used as a bench mark for negotiating a final purchase price. Finance Commission members on the Open Space Committee would negotiate the final price and ask for appraisals if necessary. It is likely that most, if not all, of the Valley Road properties (Appendix B) can be purchased with up to \$100,000 in NRD funds. Once purchased, the properties would remain as open space under Town ownership, or could be transferred to the Harwinton Land Trust. The Trust actively maintains its properties, encourages public use, can not be held liable for recreational activities on its lands by State Statute Sec. 52-557g, but still maintains liability insurance.

## **Item 2. - Project Location**

The project area is located along the Naugatuck River in the Town of Harwinton (see topographic map-Thomaston Quadrangle-below). The project encompasses about one mile of river corridor located to the west of Valley Road between the junctures of Campville Hill/ Northfield Road and Wildcat Hill Road. All project parcels lie within the flooding easement area of the ACOE Thomaston Flood Control Dam located about 2.5 miles downstream of Wildcat Hill Road. The area is easily reached from the urban centers of Torrington, Thomaston, Waterbury and Bristol (all within about 5-20 miles).





**Item 3. – Criteria Statements**

1. Our proposal contains all the information required by the CT SubCouncil, as described in the “Instructions for the Preparation and Submission of Restoration Project Proposals”.

2. By acquiring public open space that will permanently provide better fishing access to the Campville Stretch of the Naugatuck River, our project will restore lost natural resource services to the same parties injured by the release of PCBs into the Housatonic River. By permanently protecting riparian habitat along the Campville Stretch, our project will replace natural habitat that has been lost due to PCB remediation that has eliminated natural habitat of the Housatonic River below Pittsfield MA. Our proposal may also be able to restore impaired aquatic habitat by increasing the potential for future instream mitigation.

3. Our proposal is not a result of, or due to, a federal, state or local law requiring acquisition of open space along the Naugatuck River in Campville. There are no enforcement actions that would result in the acquisition of open space as has been proposed. Currently, the only way to acquire the Campville properties is through funding, including NRD funds.

4. Acquisition of Campville lands for public open space is not inconsistent with any federal, state, or local laws or policy. The federal ACOE, the state DEP, and the town of Harwinton would welcome the purchase of open space in this area.

5. Our proposal is for purchase of property for fishing access and habitat protection, and will not be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River watershed.

Submitted by the Harwinton Open Space Committee\*  
January 10, 2007

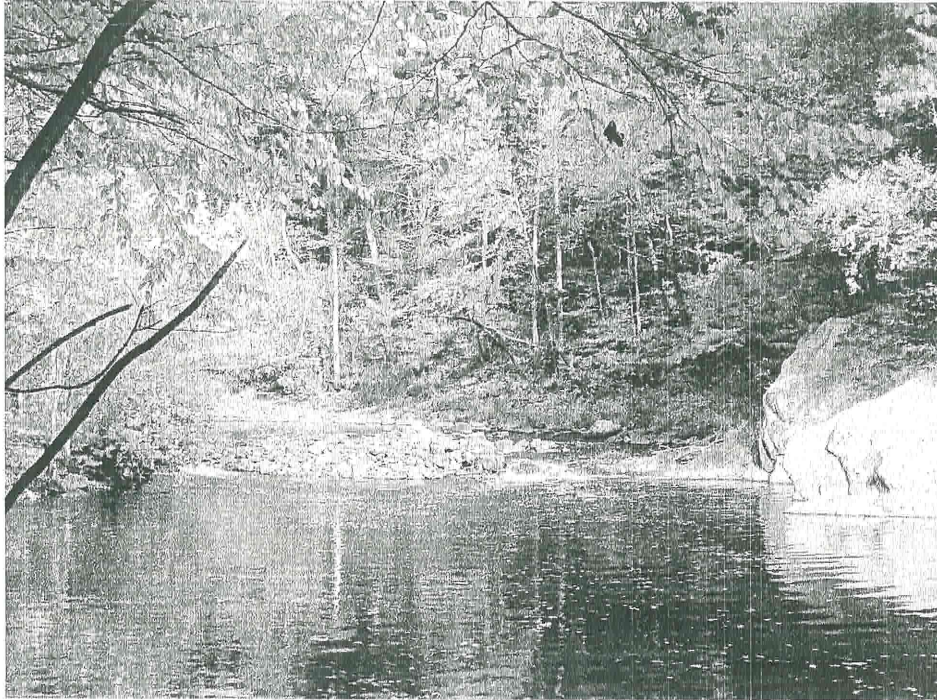
Approved by

Frank Chiaramonte  
Harwinton First Selectman

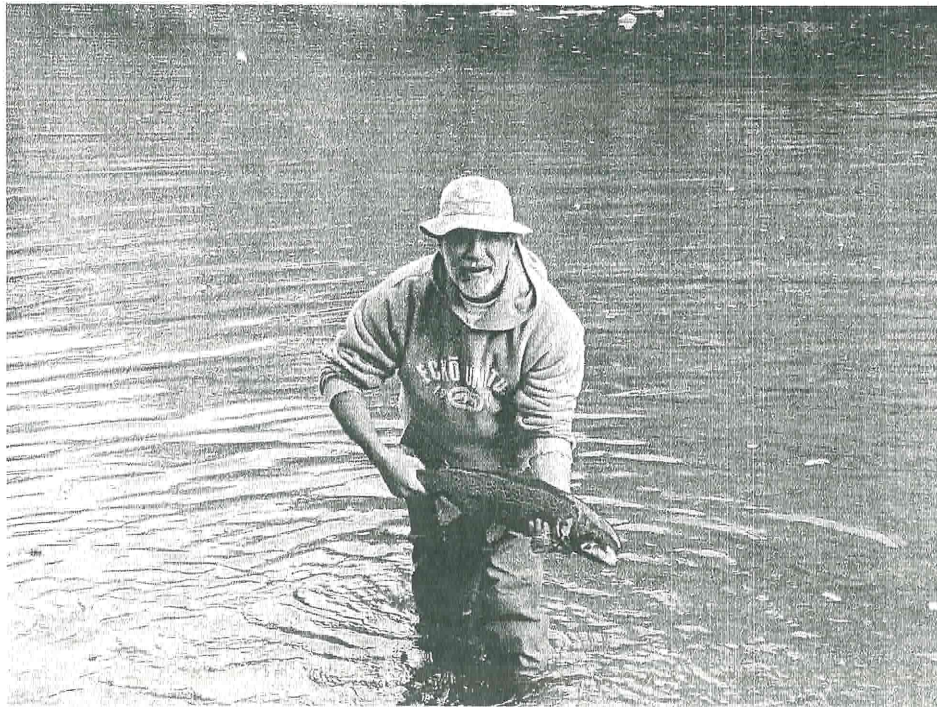
\*The Harwinton Open Space Committee is composed of Town’s First Selectman, members of the Town’s Conservation, Planning, Zoning, and Finance commissions, and the Harwinton Land Trust.



Appendix A. Photos of the Naugatuck River.

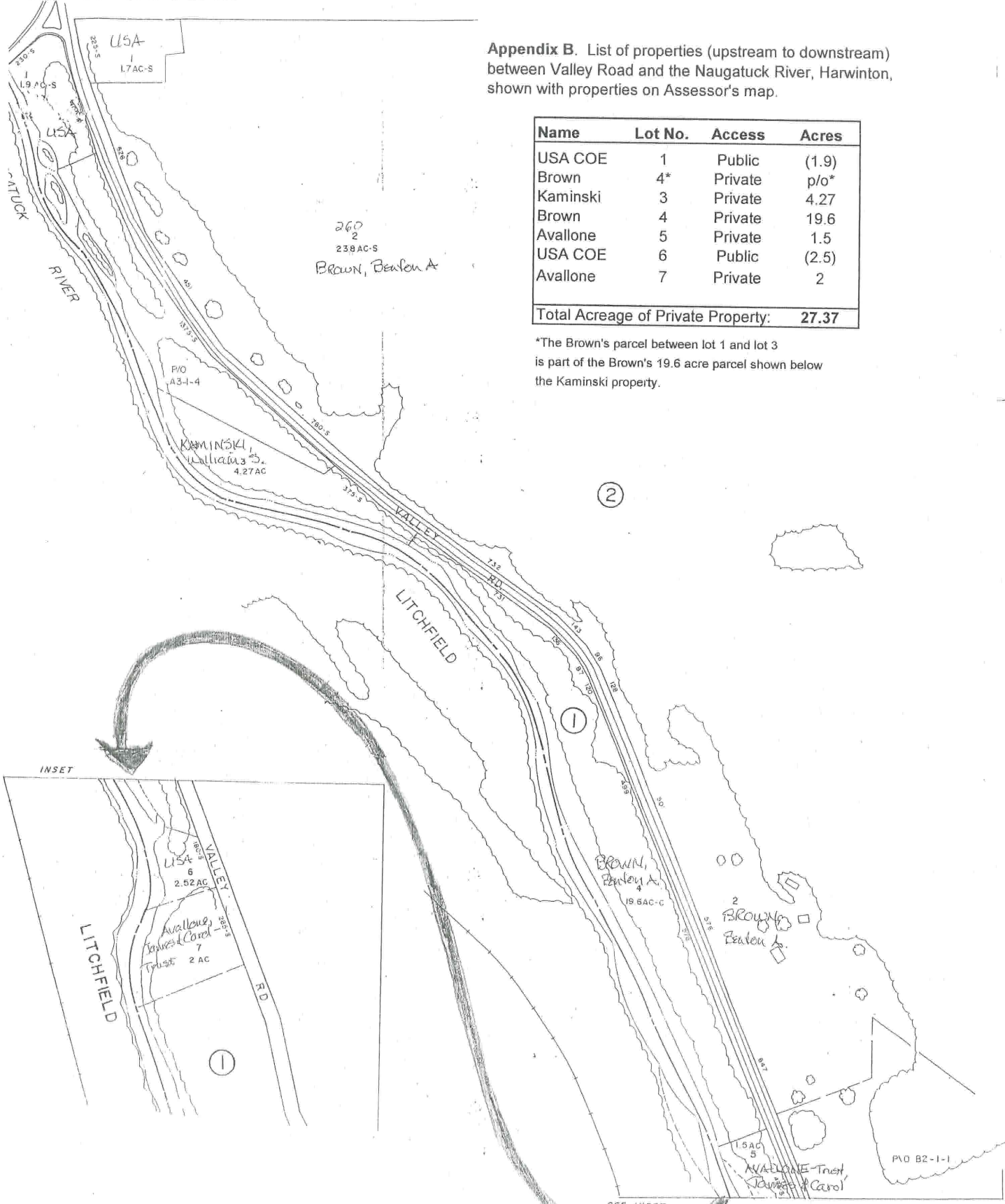


The Naugatuck River in the Campville Area of Harwinton has clean water, is very scenic, and attracts many anglers who previously fished the Housatonic River.



Anglers using the Naugatuck River find good fishing for trout and broodstock Atlantic salmon, with some salmon weighing 20 pounds or more. These fish pose no health risks, contrary to the health risks posed by PCB-contaminated fish in the Housatonic River.

# HARWINTON, CONN.



**Appendix B.** List of properties (upstream to downstream) between Valley Road and the Naugatuck River, Harwinton, shown with properties on Assessor's map.

Name	Lot No.	Access	Acres
USA COE	1	Public	(1.9)
Brown	4*	Private	p/o*
Kaminski	3	Private	4.27
Brown	4	Private	19.6
Avallone	5	Private	1.5
USA COE	6	Public	(2.5)
Avallone	7	Private	2
<b>Total Acreage of Private Property:</b>			<b>27.37</b>

\*The Brown's parcel between lot 1 and lot 3 is part of the Brown's 19.6 acre parcel shown below the Kaminski property.



A4	B4
A3	B3
	B2