

CHAPMAN MILL POND

A Town of Westbrook Open Space Conservation Area

Directions from I-95 Exit 64, go north 0.8 miles on Route 145, parking area is on the left. Watch for the blue and white **Chapman Mill Pond, Open Space-Conservation Area, Town of Westbrook** sign on the West side of Route 145 (Horse Hill Road).

Acquired in 2004 for watershed protection and public enjoyment the Chapman Mill Pond (CMP) Open Space Conservation Area includes 83 acres of forest habitat, 20 acres of the 40 acre CMP, over 3,000' of water frontage, and 2 significant vernal pools. CMP is an impoundment of the Menunketesuck River; the 18th century masonry dam, constructed to harness water power, created a 40 acre pond, with approximately half in Westbrook, half in Clinton. The dam and 155 acres of woodland, all on the west side of CMP, is owned and managed by CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection. The property's vernal pools are seasonally flooded and support a unique assemblage of pool-breeding amphibians, including wood frogs and spotted salamanders, crustaceans, including fairy shrimp, and many birds and mammals. Pool-breeding amphibians spend the remainder of the year in the surrounding upland forest habitat. Passive recreation opportunities such as hiking and horseback riding are developed and managed within the framework of long-term conservation of vernal pools and the surrounding forest habitat. Two - three miles of well-marked trails provide a variety of forest and wetland habitats including views of the lake and a section historically farmed, with stone walls that still appear functional. Chapman Mill Pond is a critical link in the state recognized Menunketesuck Greenway and the Menunketesuck/Cockaponset Regional Greenway, linking the Weber Woods Section of Cockaponset State Forest in Westbrook with the Salt Meadow Unit of the USFWL Stuart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge and Long Island Sound. CMP was purchased in cooperation with CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection and The Trust for Public Land. The parking area was funded in part by a grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Grant Program.