



Nutmeg Chapter
Trout Unlimited
PO Box 1594
Fairfield, CT 06825

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MAY 10 2022

TOWN OF WESTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TO: Weston Conservation Commission

RE: Weston Dog Park Application 18-01

The Connecticut Council and Nutmeg Chapter of Trout Unlimited (Nutmeg TU), a grassroots conservation nonprofit focused on caring for and recovering our local rivers and streams, have reviewed the proposed application and would like to provide the following commentary.

Given the proximity to the Saugatuck River, an important summer coldwater refuge for native Brook Trout inhabiting Hawley's Brook, CT and Nutmeg TU request that the town of Weston, Conservation Commission and other town agencies and staff ensure that any proposed development of a dog park, road/driveway or parking lot follow best management practices for stormwater runoff, sediment and erosion control measures and minimize as much as practicable the habitat loss of the riparian vegetation in the area.

In addition to these best management practices, TU specifically requests the following:

- 1) The stormwater infrastructure designed for the pervious areas of the site be enlarged to handle at least the first three (3) inches of rainfall. With climate change and changing precipitation patterns, more frequent severe storm events have accelerated past current stormwater regulations and designing to attenuate increased stormwater runoff will protect the health of the Saugatuck River.
- 2) A planted and maintained vegetated buffer of native trees and shrubs no less than 250 feet in width around the perimeter of the dog park, road/driveway and parking lot to capture and filter any potential polluted runoff from the site.
- 3) Hiring the Harbor Watch / River Watch program at Earthplace (or another accredited state water quality laboratory) to conduct monthly water samples at the point of stormwater discharge from the site as well as at a location downstream of the site on the Saugatuck River to identify any potential impacts to water quality and develop plans for corrective action if identified. Water samples should include the following:
 - a. E coli bacteria
 - b. Nitrogen
 - c. Phosphorous
 - d. Conductivity
 - e. Temperature

Thank you for considering these requested modifications to the plan.

John Kovach III
Chairman, Connecticut Council
Trout Unlimited

May 1, 2022

Our Mission: To bring together diverse interests to care for and recover our local rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout.