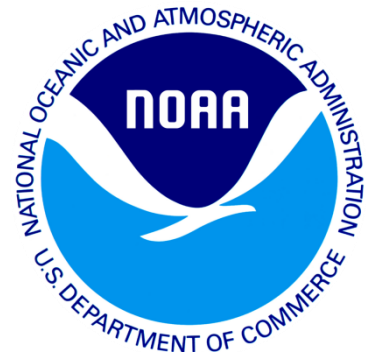
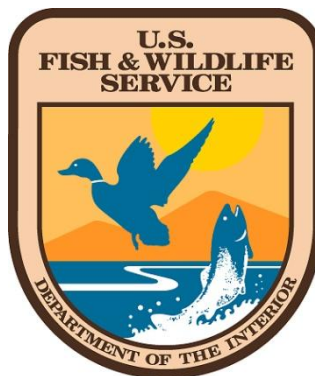


**Project #33: Wetland Restoration on the Lower Housatonic River Project Annual  
Summary Report**

**Prepared for the Trustee SubCouncil for the Geographic Area of Connecticut**

**Reporting Period: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

**Submitted by Paul Capotosto**



The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Wildlife Division, Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management (WHAMM) program was awarded funding to restore wetlands within the lower Housatonic River that have been degraded by the non-native invasive form of the plant Phragmites (*Phragmites australis americanus*). Restoration is to be accomplished by herbiciding and mowing plants over a three-year period, thereby increasing the habitat quality of this ecosystem and the survival and fitness of fish and wildlife using these habitats.

A summary of accomplishments during the time period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, is as follows:

#### Outreach and Project Preparation

Before the work was started, the WHAMM Program sent out letters to all property owners to obtain their permission and to inform them about the three-year project. Only a few property owners said no (three). Two hundred and twenty five letters were sent out. Most property owners were happy to sign off and let us do the work.

Maps were prepared for the Natural Diversity Data Base application which was sent in and a NDDB letter was sent back approving the project. A Project Request application was prepared and approved (an internal DEEP Process).

#### Implementation

Vendors were hired to implement the first phase of the Phragmites control work. All Habitat Services is working on the Stratford side. Innovative Mosquito Management is working on the Milford side. The first phase included mowing the Phragmites in both communities; mowing was done in the winter months. The WHAMM program worked with the two conservation commissions from the town of Stratford and the City of Milford and the mayor's office of Stratford and Milford to inform the public that this work was being implemented and completed. Five hundred acres were mowed.

#### Equipment

The WHAMM Program prepared bid specifications and the financial office prepared a CORE request into the DAS to purchase a low ground pressure Marsh Master II vehicle with sprayer, mower and trailer. The bid went out; Coastal Machinery LLC was awarded the bid and the WHAMM program took delivery of a Marsh Master II in September, 2011.

#### Personnel

The WHAMM Program prepared paper work for two durational positions and the CT DEEP assisted in hiring two durational positions in May, 2012.

### Monitoring

The WHAMM Program monitored bird and vegetation in several areas of the Housatonic River Phragmites control project site. Four sites were used on the river from the mouth to the northern area past the Route 15 Bridge. Pretreatment bird surveys indicated a few clapper rails were heard in Area 1 and one Virginia rail in Area 3.

Aerial pictures were taken in a helicopter hired by DEEP. Roger Wolfe, EAIII was the photographer and photos taken on October 10, 2012. Photos show Phragmites sprayed in summer of 2012.



Carting Island in Stratford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Fowler Island in Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Great Creek Golf Course and Sikorsky – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Power Line Marsh in Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



Turkey Hill Brook in Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12



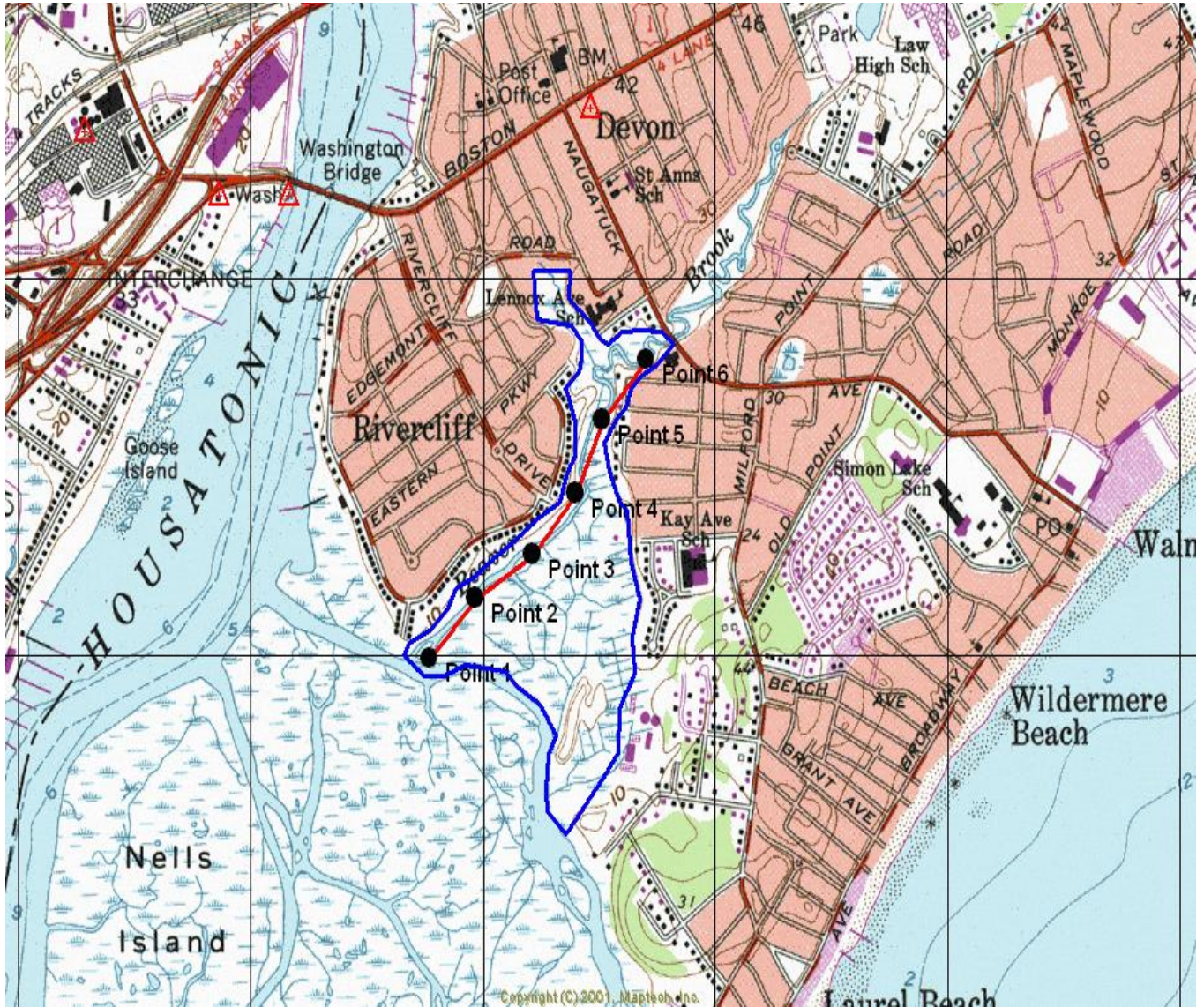
Lower Housatonic in Devon, Milford – Aerial by Roger Wolfe 10/02/12

# Housatonic River (Site 1)

91.33 Acres

## Water Bird Survey Location

Milford, Connecticut 06460

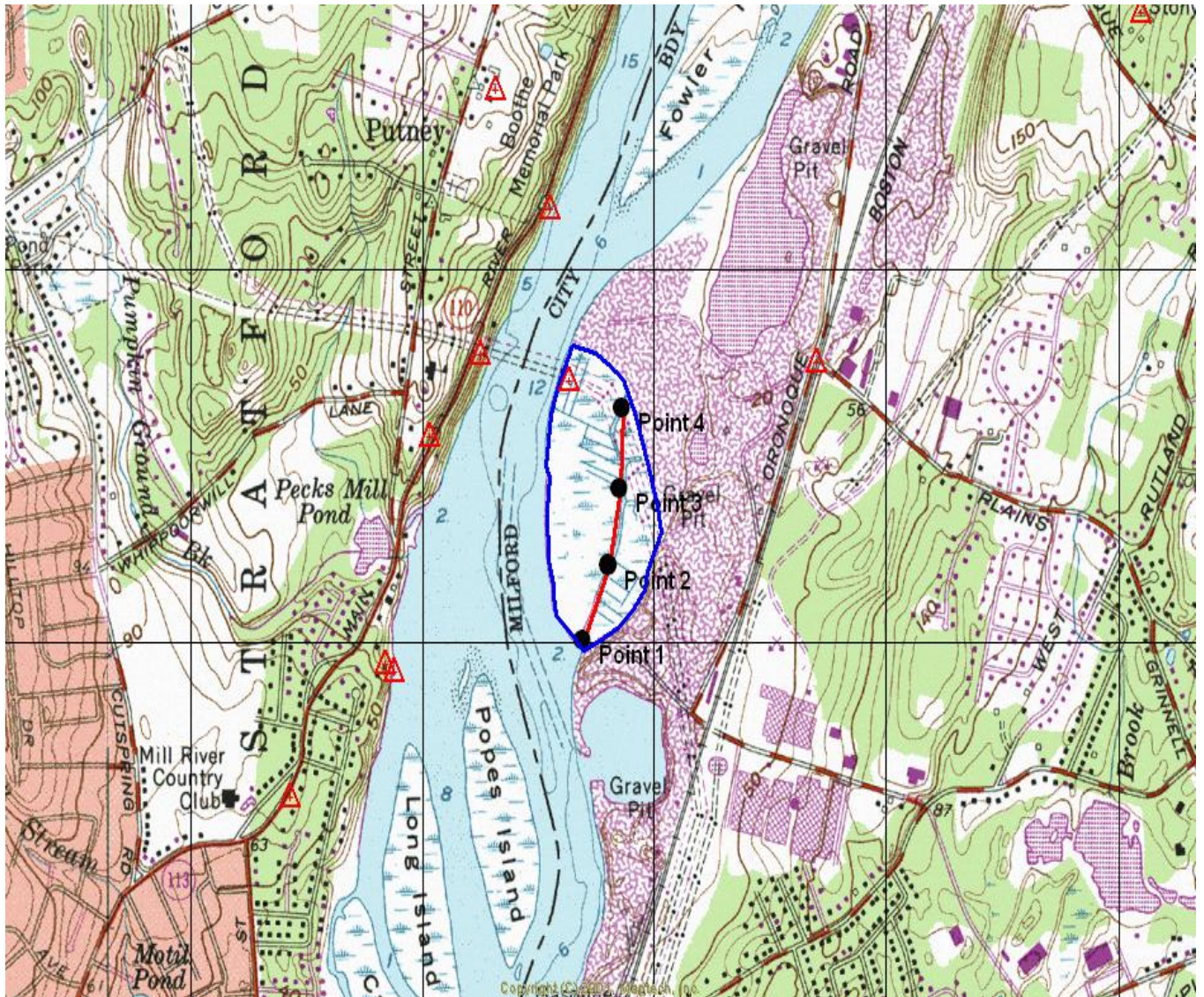


# Housatonic River Area (Site 2)

47.81 Acres

## Water Bird Survey Location

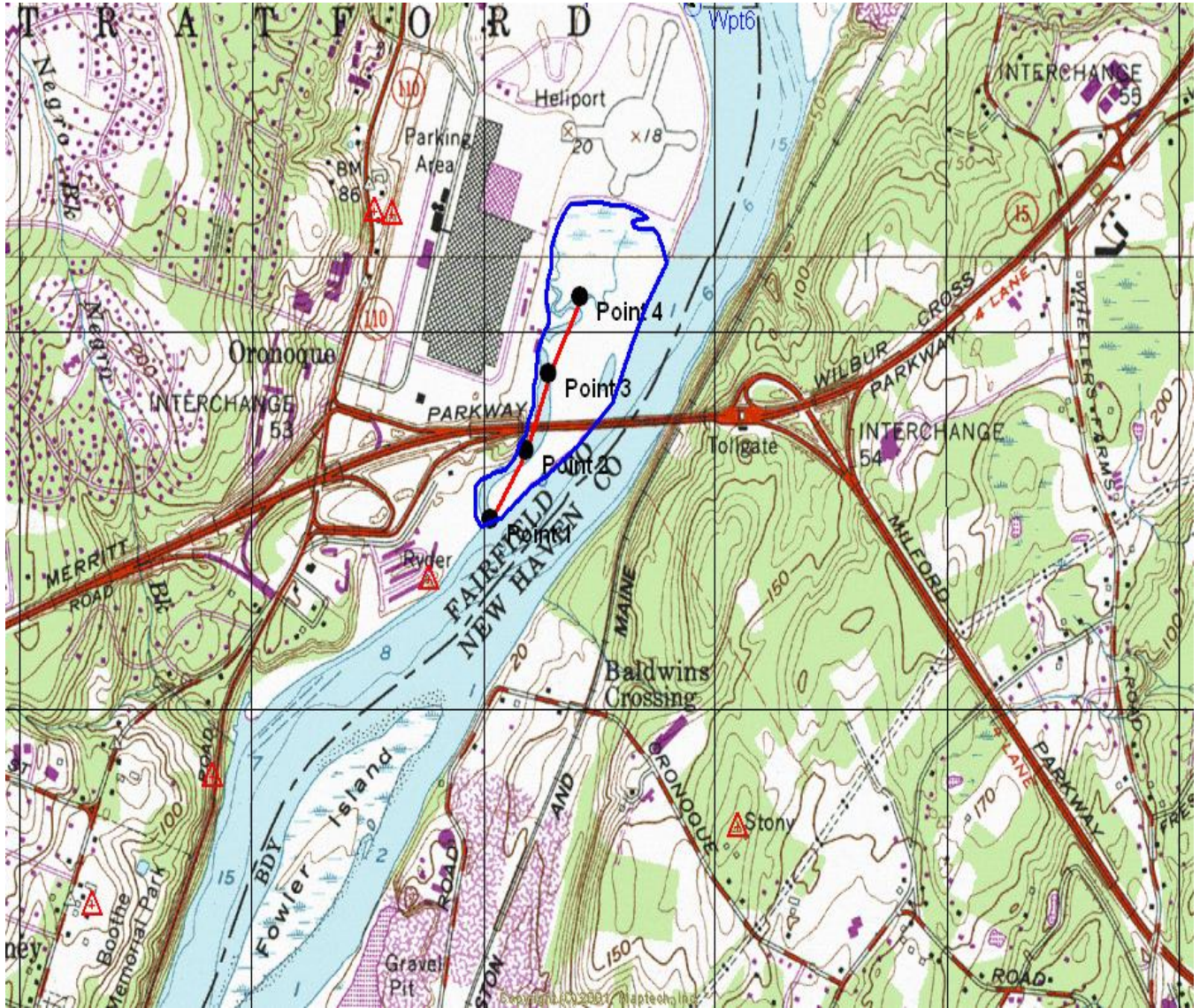
Milford, Connecticut 06460





**Housatonic River Area (Site 3)**  
**46.31 Acres**

**Water Bird Survey Location**  
**Stratford, Connecticut 06614**



**Housatonic River Ester's Cove (Site 4)**  
**48.25 Acres**

**Water Bird Survey Location**  
**Stratford, Connecticut 06614**

