

## THE PROBLEM

Our state's water resources are increasingly threatened by drought, mismanagement, and exploitation by out-of-state and corporate interests.

Connecticut cannot protect its water for future needs until we tackle the underlying problems of "grandfathered" water rights that are not subject to adequate state oversight.

Passing the State Water Plan is key to protecting our most precious natural resource.

## A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

The State Water Plan—mandated by the legislature in 2016—is the culmination of a million-dollar, multi-year process of diligent work by stakeholders, committees, agencies, legislators, and the public.

The Plan includes good faith compromise language by all parties and was unanimously approved by the Water Planning Council (WPC).

The Plan is not a regulatory document, but rather a springboard for future decision-making using the multitude of information, research, and existing state policy it outlines.

In 2018, the Plan was delivered to the legislature for approval. After a multicommittee public hearing process, the legislature failed to call the Plan for a vote, bowing to opponents from utilities and corporations who objected to language referring to water as a public trust resource.



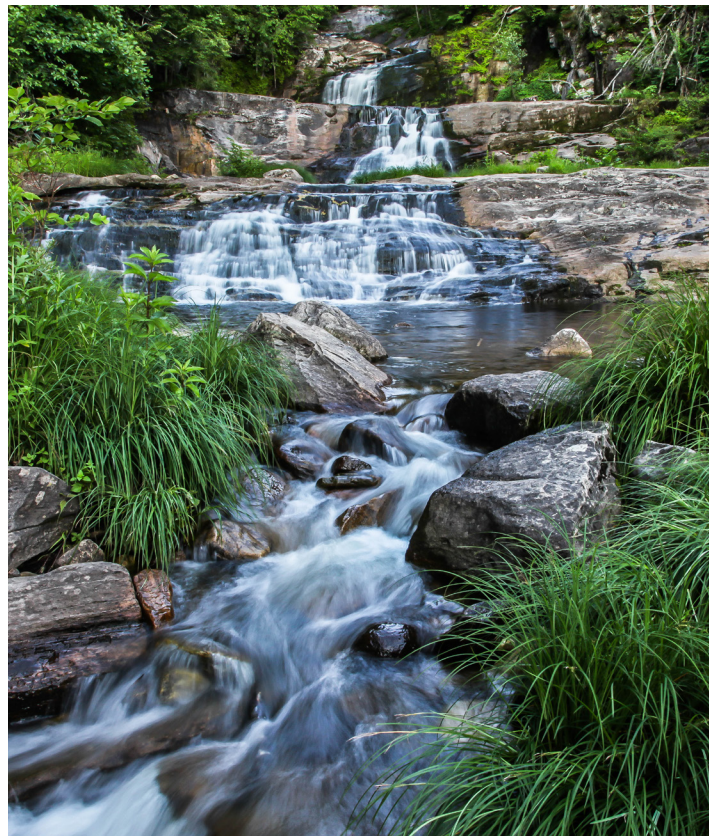
Connecticut has invested over two years and more than **\$1 million** worth of in-depth work by experts to develop the State Water Plan.



The Plan makes recommendations for maintaining pure drinking water, watershed protection, drought planning, streams and river conservation, and improved scientific data collection.



The Plan creates a platform for making informed decisions to balance "in-stream needs" for the environment with "out of stream needs" for economic development. It provides guidance, not statutory mandates.



## WATER AS A PUBLIC TRUST

Water has been regarded as a public trust since 1971 under the **Connecticut Environmental Protection Act**. During the public hearing process, more than 6,000 comments were submitted to the legislature requesting that the State Water Plan reaffirm water as a public trust. This language was then unanimously approved by the WPC.

Gov. Dannel Malloy came out strongly in support of water protection and signed an executive order on June 13, 2018 directing the WPC to move forward on the State Water Plan as written and deliver it to the legislature for the 2019 session without change or deletion, including references to the public trust.

While this was an important step forward, opposition from utility companies and some big businesses continues to block the Plan for reasons that are not in the public's best interest.

The State Water Plan is intended to be a guiding document to lay the foundation for policies that will restore the essential oversight and accountability that is missing in the way our state water is currently controlled.



## MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the State Water Plan, contact:

**Margaret Miner, Executive Director**  
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut  
PO Box 1797, 7 West Street  
Litchfield, CT 06759  
(203) 788-5161  
Rivers@RiversAlliance.org

## CONTACT US

Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Education Fund  
553 Farmington Ave, Suite 201  
Hartford, CT 06105

(860) 236-5442  
ctlcvc@ctlcvc.org