

The Historic Ponds of Chestnut Hill Reservoir Company East Killingly, Connecticut

Description: National Patent Development Corporation has offered to donate the land and flowage rights of 561-acres on five reservoirs that make up the headwaters of the Whetstone Brook to the people of the State of Connecticut. This gift is valued at more than $1.25 M - protection of these natural areas offers very unique opportunities for passive recreation as well as water, land and wildlife conservation for Killingly, the Last Green Valley and the entire State of Connecticut.

History: The Chestnut Hill Water Company acquired the land approximately 200 years ago for a reservoir system including **Eddy Pray Reservoir, Middle Reservoir, Bog Meadow Reservoir, Alvia Chase Reservoir and Old Killingly Pond** to generate power for saw mills and textile mills along Whetstone Brook. Although no longer used by the mills, the land and water remain essentially undisturbed by development.

Local, State and Regional Significance: The ponds of East Killingly are located in the heart of the Borderlands region of eastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island—recognized and supported by The Nature Conservancy and the Orton Family Foundation. It is also a part of the federally designated "Last Green Valley" (Quinebaug-Shetucket) National Heritage Corridor. This region is celebrated for its rural lands, historic mill villages and natural resources. The reservoirs have been identified by local, state and regional agencies and organizations for their critical natural and cultural resources:

Clean Water: Natural underground springs in Old Killingly Pond contribute water to the entire Whetstone Brook watershed which is very clean and helps to maintain healthy water quality in Five Mile River and Quinebaug River for people, fish and other wildlife. Protecting the ponds from additional development will reduce costs from pollution and increased storm water.

Wildlife Conservation: The reservoirs are home to breeding and migrating birds such as Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Buffleheads as well as Ospreys and other raptors. The upper Thames River Basin is recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a critical area for waterfowl. Many rare and threatened plant species found in this region are dependent on the forests and clean water of the ponds.

Open Space Connections: The ponds and streams of Whetstone Brook watershed are part of an interstate wildlife corridor used by mammals, birds and amphibians for breeding, feeding and traveling. The land and water connect Connecticut State Forest at Old Killingly Pond, Redwing Land Trust property and Killingly Pond Management Area in Rhode Island.

Public Access, Scenic Beauty and Passive Recreation: The ponds provide excellent opportunities for paddling, fishing, hiking and bird watching. Adding this scenic, natural area to the state forest and park system will help meet the Connecticut Green Plan goal of 21% protected land for Connecticut and Killingly.

State and Local Support: You can help encourage the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to accept this generous donation. Please send your personal or organizational letters or emails of support for this amazing opportunity to CT DEP, your legislator or the Killingly Conservation Commission - we will forward them for you. Thank you for doing your part to ensure we will all continue to responsibly enjoy these beautiful ponds for generations to come.

Killingly Conservation Commission

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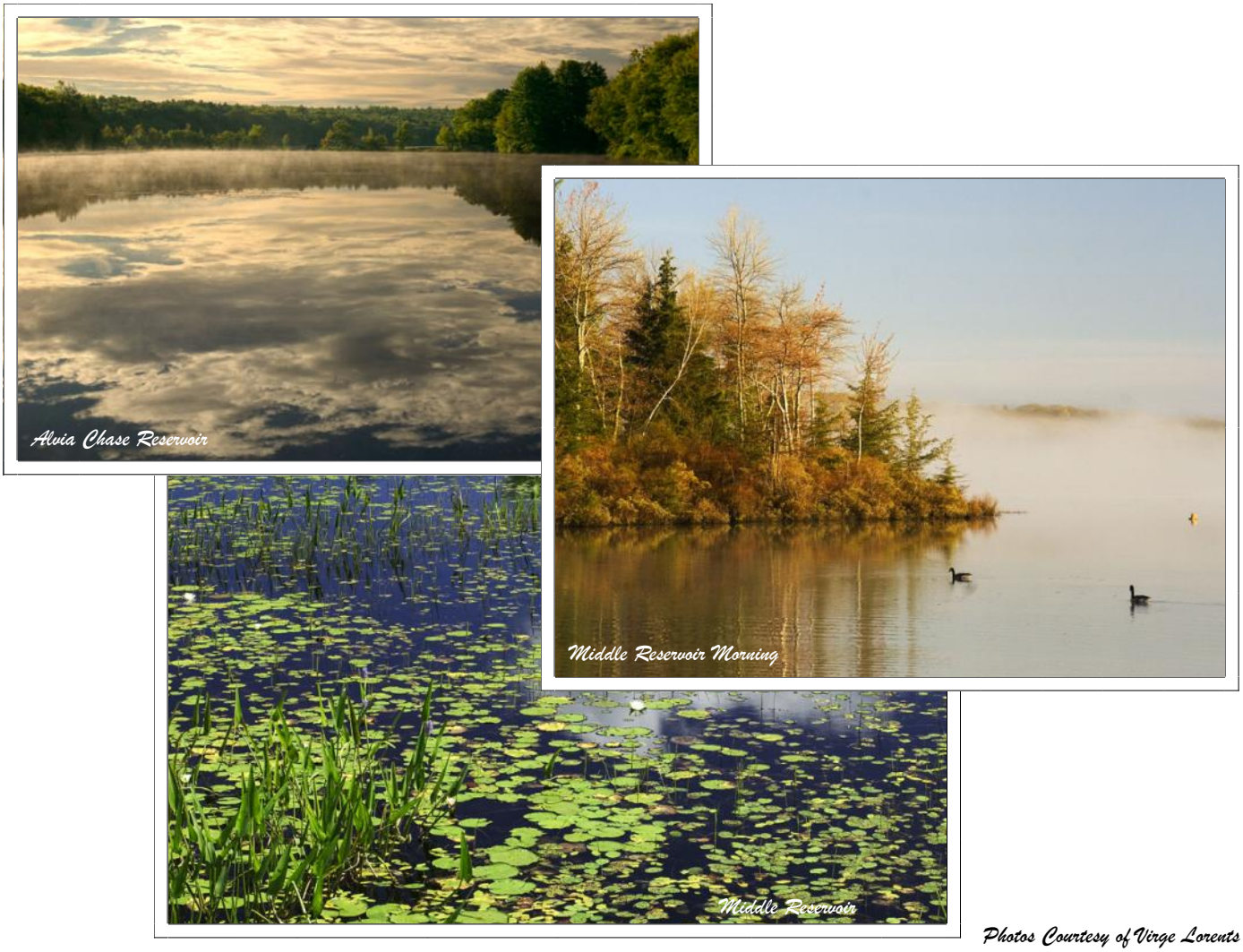
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