

# Strong Meadow Preserve

A Pollinator Pathway Community & Conservation Center



## Meadows Matter

The meadow at Strong Meadow Preserve provides important habitat for some of Connecticut's Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Native Pollinators.

The mowing of this field destroys the habitat for species observed at the park. This includes ground nesting grassland birds like Bobolinks, endangered Wood Turtles, and beloved Monarch Butterflies.

1

### CONSERVATION

Protect and connect two Woodbury Open Space parcels along the Nonnewaug River.

2

### EDUCATION

An accessible park to educate the community on the importance of Pollinator Pathways.

3

### COMMUNITY

Partner with Garden Centers, Region 14, Garden Club, and Scouting programs.



#### Bobolinks

Have one of the longest migrations of all bird species, traveling 12,500 miles annually. Overwintering in South America, they return to their native breeding grounds in the spring, which includes CT. Bobolinks will reappear on CT DEEP threatened species list in 2025 due to habitat loss, particularly due to early hay harvest.



#### Wood Turtles

Endangered; present in riverside meadows and hayfields.

## 1. Conservation

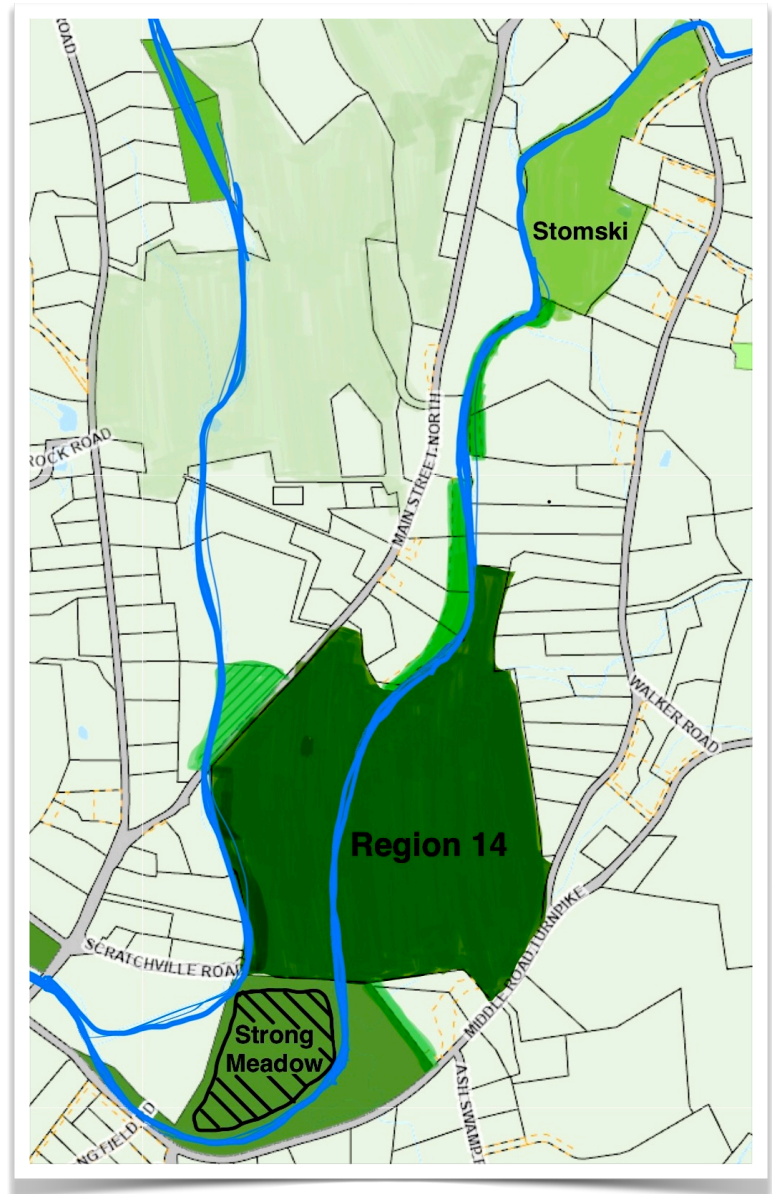
Strong Meadow: the finale on connecting and creating a conservation corridor in Woodbury along the Nonnewaug River.

Starting at the Minortown Preserve (Stomski Way) the Nonnewaug river flows through a conservation easement down to the fields at Nonnewaug High School, and finally through Strong Meadow Preserve where it converges with East Meadow Brook.

## 2. Education

On July 25, 2023 the Town of Woodbury signed the Connecticut Pollinator Pathway Resolution.

This resolution acknowledges that pollinators, including bees, birds, and butterflies, are in decline due to destruction and fragmentation of habitat. Strong Meadow can serve as a living natural history museum and community education hub for the tenants of this resolution. The parcel is flat, and the path around the field can be made **accessible** to be enjoyed by all.



## 3. Community

**Business Partnerships:** Local town garden shops, like the nearby Dietrich's Garden, can provide for sale pollinator friendly garden kits.

**Living Lab:** The town can partner with Region 14 students studying environmental science, or Vo-Ag students in the Natural Resources, Plant Science, and Landscaping Programs. Also provides opportunity for capstone or scouting projects, and garden club awareness.

**Economy:** Like the Steep Rock preserves in Washington, natural areas bring people into town. Strong Meadow is in close proximity to our town sidewalks and Main Street business district.

