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**Appendix B**  
**Recreational Observations**

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**Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan  
Field Notes from Winter 2011 Recreational Survey  
March 20, 2011**

The study area was observed from 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM on Sunday March 20, 2011. The weather was partly cloudy with highs in the low 40s and the ground was partially snow covered.

The reconnaissance began in the vicinity of the bridge above the dam and continued to the northeast, ending at Old River Road. Specific observations are listed below:

1. The impoundment had visible large areas of open water breaks in the ice cover and generally appeared to be on the way towards spring open water conditions. Several bird/ducks were visible using the impoundment. No Pedestrians were on the bridge. No boats or kayaks were visible in the impoundment.
2. Several people were observed walking on the existing rails-to-trails pathway and entering and exiting the existing shops in the immediate area. The small park located on the west side of the dam was not being used.
3. Six walkers/joggers and one dog were observed using the northern portion of the trail and boardwalk adjacent to the pond.
4. Collinsville Canoe & Kayak appeared open as there were a few cars in the parking lot. The number of people were not counted.

**Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan  
Field Notes from Spring 2011 Recreational Survey  
April 30, 2011**

Collinsville Canoe & Kayak held its annual opening sale and demonstration event the weekend of April 30-May 1, 2011. The study area was observed from 11:30 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The weather was partly cloudy with highs in the upper 50s.

The reconnaissance began in the vicinity of the bridge above the dam and continued to the northeast, ending at Old River Road. Specific observations are listed below:

1. Three people were fishing from the State Route 179 bridge. Two cars were parked on the bridge and appeared to belong to these individuals. Two individuals were fishing in the unimpounded river and one was fishing in the arm of the pond that extends beneath the bridge to the south.
2. A couple was observed walking on the bridge with a camera, apparently taking photographs of the river and/or the scenery.
3. The small park located on the west side of the Upper Collinsville dam was not being used. A picnic table is located in this area, along with an informational historic site sign.
4. A narrow, steep path leads downslope from the bridge near the east side of the dam. One of the fishermen was observed walking up and down the path, presumably to evaluate the area as a potential fishing site.
5. The bicycle crossing of the road was busy, with a bike crossing every couple minutes. Fewer bikes were observed on the trail and boardwalk where they are adjacent to the Upper Collinsville Mill Pond, indicating that some of them stop in the vicinity of the park on the east side of Collinsville Canoe & Kayak and then return to the Farmington River trail to the south. Indeed, bikes were observed parked in the small park on the east side of Collinsville Canoe & Kayak. Approximately 10 to 15 bikes were observed using the northern portion of the trail and boardwalk adjacent to the pond. Although most of the cyclists accessed the area from the south, one couple was observed parking in the Town Highway Garage lot and removing bikes from their vehicle.
6. One pair of walkers and two separate dog walkers were observed on the trail and boardwalk adjacent to the pond.
7. Collinsville Canoe & Kayak was busy with the sale and demonstration event. The number of attendees was not counted. At least five or six kayaks were observed in the Upper Collinsville Mill Pond. The easternmost of the two boat launches (the one in the small park) was marked with two signs that stated "Marine Event in Progress."

**Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan  
Field Notes from Summer 2011 Recreational Survey  
July 6, 2011**

The study area was observed from 1 PM to 4 PM on Wednesday, July 6, 2011. The weather was clear with highs in the upper 80s.

The reconnaissance began at Collinsville Canoe and Kayak and continue for two hours from the water. The final hour was spent on land. Several photographs were taken. The time of day and the day of the week afforded a different set of observations than might have occurred on a weekend or evening. Specific observations are listed below:

1. Fishing and trail usage (walking, biking, rollerblading, etc.) were not observed during the three hours. This may have been due to the time of day, the day of the week, and/or the fact that this is a typical vacation week for many families.
2. Day camps were using the Collinsville Canoe and Kayak facilities and equipment. Campers and their counselors were paddling upstream to the forested island to utilize this area. At one point, the children were instructed to float downstream along the deep riffle located along the northeast side of the island. This appeared to be quite fun for the children.
3. A handful of people (mainly adults) were receiving instruction from Collinsville Canoe and Kayak personnel and/or renting kayaks during the three hours.
4. Three people (two teens and one pre-teen from one vehicle) parked at Collinsville Canoe and Kayak and used their own canoe. This appears to be an example of the public using the parking area and the river access site managed by Collinsville Canoe and Kayak.
5. Ten young men or teenagers were swimming to and from the railroad abutment with the rope ladder and climbing up (then diving off) the abutment.
6. At least 11 people were utilizing the large outcrop west of the River Road/Simonds Avenue intersection for sunbathing and swimming. Some of them appeared to have accessed the outcrop from the water, but some of them must have come from the land side. The ages ranged from teens to adults.
7. At least 12 cars were parked along the north and south sides of Town Bridge Road near the bridge. At least 16 people were utilizing the gravel bar and sand beach areas on the upstream side of the bridge (some with inflatable rafts), whereas two people were using the smaller sand beach area on the downstream side of the bridge (also with an inflatable raft). Ages ranged from small children to adults. Two trash barrels were observed, with one at each of the two trailheads.
8. Three teens had accessed the pond from the Old River Road area and were returning to shore with their inflatable raft. One of them was wading due to the relatively shallow depth.

9. A handful of individuals of various ages were using the pond for canoeing, kayaking, and upright paddle-boarding (standing while paddling).
10. Two access points were observed on the west side of the pond. One of them is across from the Town Highway Garage site and one is across from the boardwalk part of the trail. Both access points are unpaved/unimproved. It appears that people walk down to the river from the Collins Road neighborhood.

In summary, use of the pond appears to be very heavy – even during a weekday during a week that many people are traveling on vacations. However, the observed ages tended to be younger (day camps, the young men swimming to the railroad abutments, etc.) than observed at other times, and the activities were focused on in-water recreation. By comparison, people were fishing and using the trail on the late spring/early summer evenings of June 7 and June 16, and more adults were observed (these were casual observations before the meetings held on those days).

**Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan  
Field Notes from Summer 2011 Recreational Survey  
July 17, 2011**

The study area was observed from 2 PM to 3:30 PM on Sunday, July 17, 2011. The weather was clear and sunny with highs in the lower 90s.

The reconnaissance began in the Bridge Street area and continued to the north. Numerous photographs were taken. The time day of the week (Sunday) afforded a different set of observations than those made on July 6, 2011. Specific observations are listed below:

1. A sign posted at the Town Hall parking lot indicated that the lot was not available for public parking until 2 PM. An event may have been taking place earlier in the day. Directional signs were posted nearby, pointing to antique stores and the Gallery 101.
2. A family was hosting a lemonade stand at the bend in Main Street, between the road and the trail. The target customers appeared to be people approaching from both sides (pedestrians on the street and bicyclists on the trail).
3. The trail was very busy with bicyclists throughout the afternoon. Many families with children were observed on bikes. One jogger with a dog was observed, and a member of the Steering Committee was observed walking along the part of the trail near the road.
4. Fishing from the bridge was not observed. Pedestrians and parked cars were not observed on the Route 179 bridge.
5. Collinsville Canoe and Kayak was very busy and the parking lot was relatively full, with the eastern end cordoned off to prevent automobile access.
6. At any given time, from ten to 20 kayaks were observed in the impoundment. At least two standing paddlers were observed, and at least two canoes were observed.
7. Swimmers were not observed anywhere in the area of Collinsville Canoe and Kayak. Nobody was swimming out to the bridge abutments and nobody was hanging out on the abutments, in contrast to the observations of July 6, 2011.
8. A few minutes were spent in the small park east of Collinsville Canoe and Kayak. A family of three stopped at the kiosk with the graphic of the Farmington River watershed. After receiving permission to photograph the family, they remarked that there should be a series of graphics of the entire trail system that depict the location (such as a "you are here" marker on the maps). They remarked that they were from Cheshire where "the other part of the trail system is located."
9. The shoreline was accessed from the small park by climbing down along a small steep path adjacent to the stone wall. At the current low water level, a narrow muddy "beach" is present

in this area, extending east from the stormwater outfall to the large outcrop. However, no one was using this area.

10. A few minutes were spent in the Town Highway Garage parking lot. Four cars were parked here (one with a handicap placard). One car was departing and appeared to be occupied by bicyclists, based on the bike rack. The other three cars may have belonged to people using the small beach on the opposite side of the trail. Five people were present. One older woman and two older men were fishing from chairs, and two young women were sitting on chairs but did not have fishing gear.
11. About four vehicles were parked in an unpaved parking lot across Route 179 from the Riverside Nursery. This appears to be nursery-related parking.
12. At least 12 people were utilizing the large outcrop west of the River Road/Simonds Avenue intersection for sunbathing and swimming. Some of them appeared to have accessed the outcrop from the water, but some of them may have come from the land side.
13. A total of 33 vehicles were parked along the north and south sides of Town Bridge Road near the bridge, extending to the pumping station. Of the two trash barrels, one was overflowing. The area was extremely busy, with cars actively coming and going, and the beaches were crowded with sunbathers, swimmers, and boaters. Ages ranged from small children to adults.
14. Downstream of Town Bridge, numerous kayaks were observed using the area around the island. A family of three was using a canoe and the parent had to get out and drag the canoe through part of the riffle on the northeast side of the island, evidently because they hit a shallow spot. The family then paddled upstream past the beaches. Three inflatable boats were being used near the shoreline.
15. Upstream of Town Bridge on the northern end of the cobble beach, a family had started a campfire and was cooking.
16. At least four dogs were observed on the beaches in the Town Bridge Road area.

In summary, use of the pond and the trail system appear to be very heavy on a typical summer weekend.

**Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan  
Field Notes from Autumn 2011 Recreational Survey  
October 15, 2011**

The study area was observed from 1 PM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 15, 2011. The weather was partly cloudy with highs in the 60s. Sun showers were occurring intermittently during the hour.

1. Two cars were parked on Town Bridge Road. One person was observed walking westbound on the road near the River Road intersection.
2. Cars were not parked in the Town Garage lot. However, two separate pairs of joggers were observed from the Town Garage lot. Both pairs were jogging on the trail.
3. While stationed at Collinsville Canoe and Kayak store, one bicyclist and one pedestrian were observed on this section of the trail.
4. Three patrons of Collinsville Canoe and Kayak were receiving a kayak lesson in the vicinity of the boat ramp. Kayaks were not observed in the impoundment.
5. The crosswalk between the Town Hall parking lot and the shops adjacent to Collinsville Canoe and Kayak was relatively busy with pedestrians who appeared to be shopping but using the Town Hall parking lot.
6. Fishing was not observed in the study area.
7. Two people were observed walking from Torrington Road over the bridge toward Collinsville center.
8. One canoe was observed at the small dock along Collins Road.