

Haddam Killingworth News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING HADDAM, HIGGANUM, HADDAM NECK AND KILLINGWORTH

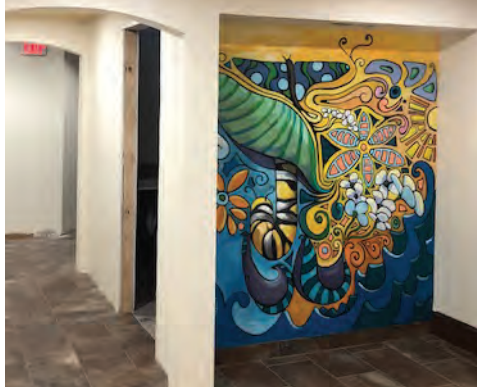
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March 4, 2021

For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day

Free weekly

Brainerd Memorial Library Construction Update: February 2021



Downstairs lobby seen from the elevator. Mural by Ted Esselstyn.

By Kathy Brown

As many of you are aware, Brainerd Memorial Library has been under construction for months.

“As more and more members of our community took advantage of library services, we decided to add a new parking area with additional spaces, improved exterior lighting for safety, creation of a new lower plaza entry door and lobby, and upgraded public rest rooms,” said Kent Jarrell, member of the Library Board of Trustees.

“In this time of COVID, we wanted to protect

library patrons and our staff, as well as keeping our staff on the payroll,” said Kent. “So, we were able to do all that and allow construction crews to work on our long-planned renovations.”

Because of COVID-19, the construction project has run into many delays. We received an update from Library Director, Tom Piezzo back in September, and thought we should provide another update, with some photos of the progress.

“We have certainly been busy here, like the pro-

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The eastern coyote: Our backyard neighbor

By Sharon Challenger

“Lions, Tigers and Bears, oh my!” would not be the right mantra for those of us who live in Haddam, Higganum, Haddam Neck, or Killingworth. For us it would be more along the lines of “Coyotes, Bobcats, and Bears, oh my!”

Living in the neighborhood of Connecticut’s second largest forest, Cockaponset, we are no strangers to wildlife in our back yards. Cockaponset Forest is named after an Eastern Algonquin Indian Chief who is buried in the Ponset section of Haddam. The forest encompasses over 17,000 acres and spans the towns of Haddam, Chester, Deep River, Madison, Clinton, Westbrook, Killingworth, Durham, Guilford, Middletown, and Middlefield.

While we might like to imagine coyotes reside mostly deep in our forests, they prefer living on the edge between clearings and woodlands. However, they have been seen in cities, suburbs, parks, beach fronts, golf courses, and office parks.

It may surprise you to learn that the eastern coyote is not native to Connecticut. They only began appearing in our state in the 1950’s. Since then, however, sightings of coyotes began to increase and have made many of us sit up and take note of their presence. Today they can be found throughout our state with numbers ranging from 3,000 to possibly as many as 5,000.

The eastern coyote is a mix of the western coyote, wolf, and domestic dog. This hybridization occurred in southern Ontario around the turn of the 20th century. The eastern wolf population had been decimated by hunting trapping and clear cutting of



Photography by Sal De Fini

Photo by Sal De Fini, retired from a 37 yr. insurance career in NYC. Relocated to CT 7 yrs. ago and now an avid nature photographer.) Email: used2b175@gmail.com Photo blog:<http://sal-ct.blogspot.com/>

forests. The few wolves that survived, mixed with the western coyote. As a result, the eastern coyote is approximately 35% heavier than its western counterpart. It is however smaller than the eastern wolf which is approximately 65% heavier than the same sex eastern coyote.

The differences between western and eastern coyotes have spurred some scientists to say the eastern coyote should be designated as a new species, *Canis oriens*. In addition, they believe a new common name is also warranted, “Coywolves,” because they

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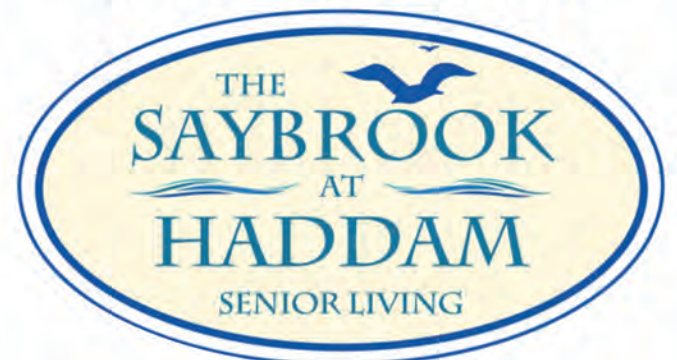
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Bid for Brainerd! Treasures, Treats and Tradition

Submitted by Donna Brinckerhoff

Brainerd Memorial Library is hosting an online auction, on BiddingOwl.com. The auction begins March 19 and runs through March 28, 2021.

The 10-day-long nonprofit event will raise funds for adult and children's programs at the library, which is undergoing a physical renovation.

The library auction team has collected all types of interesting and fabulous things, and expects to have

over 250 items by the time actual bidding begins.

So far, the collection includes a range of goods in every category including jewelry, wine, furniture, getaways, antiques, gift cards for goods and services

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Brainerd library renovations

Book Nook, Covid style. Photos provided by Tom Piezzo.



Continued from page HK1
verbial swimming duck — calm above the water and strenuously paddling just below the surface!” said Tom.

The staff has been putting together “touchless pickup” orders for residents, and the History Room has been repurposed to quarantine returned materials from residents, to be in compliance with best practices in the industry.

Friends of the Library has kept their “Book Nook” going, even during COVID, by putting materials on a cart, for self service shopping. “The BML Friends have been running ‘Pop-Up’ sales since the holidays whereby we feature materials with different themes,” explained Robbie Marshall, Assistant Director, BML. “January was self-help and hobbies and February is romance. March will be biographies and history. April will be ‘The Arts.’ DVDs and regular paperbacks are 3 for \$1. We also have audio books and some specialty items. We have collection jars on the cart outside and in the entry hall. When we see someone browsing, we ask what they’d like from the Nook. Then we check to see if we have some of their favorite authors or genres. They can also email or call with requests.”

Though the Friends of the Library fundraise for the library, that’s not all they do. According to Brainerd Memorial Library’s website, the “Friends” are Brainerd Memorial Library supporters “who work to enrich library services in the community through volunteering, fundraising, and serving as advocates for the Library’s mission.” If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Library, go to www.brainerdlibrary.org/friends-about/ for more information.



The retaining wall beside the entry plaza.

(in a week or so, weather permitting) the old pole can come down, and absent the snow, the crews can begin setting in place the lot paving, the sidewalks, the entrance plaza and the new exterior lights. When that is complete, we will be able to use the two lower level doors which presently open onto a pit and an active worksite — obviously making it unsafe for public occupancy.”

They are also still waiting on some building materials like doors and fixtures, and some labor like interior electrical work, and paint and ceiling work.

“Our wonderful library staff just keeps things rolling along at Brainerd, constrained but not deterred by a building which is closed to the public,” said Betty Devlin, one of the Friends of the Library. “Every day that they’re working, they are finding and bagging books and movies for outside pickup by patrons who still need fresh or favorite stories. They are also offering copying and printing services, virtual workshops, fun contests, seasonal craft kits, and — still — used books for sale! Perhaps you’ve heard, ‘Slow and steady wins the race.’ Well, then, Brainerd is winning the construction race! Bit by bit, as they are able, the construction crew is making progress despite supply shortages and other inevitable delays.”

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH TOWN & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please visit www.haddam.org, www.townofkillingworth.com or hk-now.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes.

See hk-now.com for more information on calendar items.

Thursday, March 4

Haddam P&Z Meeting, 30 Field Drive, Haddam, CT 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

RSD17 BOE and Towns Budget Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. HK/I/MS Cafeteria

RDS17 Budget Workshop (After mtg. with Towns) Time TBD HK/I/MS Parmelee Farm Comm. Mtg. (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 6

Town of Killingworth Board of Assessment Appeals 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Notice of Regular Meeting and Agenda BY APPOINTMENT. Location TBD

Virtual Super Saturday Storytime 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Storytimes on our YouTube channel! <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

Monday, March 8

Town of Killingworth Board of Assessment Appeals 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Notice of Regular Meeting and Agenda BY APPOINTMENT. Location TBD

Haddam BOS Meeting (remote access only) 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Killingworth BOS Mtg. (remote access

only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Killingworth Park & Rec. Mtg. (remote access only) 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9

Tuesday Book Discussion (Zoom) 1:00 pm - 2:00 p.m.

Join us as we discuss *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan. Email the library at mail@killingworthlibrary.org.

RSD17 BOE Budget Workshop 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Central Office Killingworth BOF Mtg. (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Killingworth Inland Wetlands Comm. Mtg. (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 11

Killingworth Conservation Comm. Mtg. (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Haddam Park & Rec. Mtg 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Town Annex Building

LOCAL DEATHS

Anthony J. Salamone, Jr.

Anthony J. Salamone, Jr., 78, of Higganum, former owner of Tony’s Package Store, passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

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Bid for Brainerd

Continued from page HK2
and gift baskets, to name a few. Local businesses are doing their part as well by donating gift certificates and services.

Bidders will be able to preview and track auction items at Haddam Elementary School at set times for the duration of the event.

The user-friendly website is: Www.BiddingOwl.com.

The BML auction site will be open for bidding on midnight of 3/19.

To bid:

1. Go to <https://www.biddingowl.com/BrainerdMemorialLibrary>
2. Register as a Bidder in the top right corner.
3. Once you have registered with an email and a password, you can come and go easily on the site!
4. Remember to opt-in for text and/or email notifications for when you bid, when you’re outbid and when you WIN!

Enjoy the fun and thanks for Bidding for Brainerd!

The eastern coyote: Our backyard neighbor

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are 60% coyote, 30% wolf, and 10% dog.

Differences between Eastern and Western coyotes

- Eastern coyotes have a larger “home range” (11 square miles.)
- Eastern coyotes have a wider skull, bigger teeth, bigger paws, and longer legs.
- Eastern coyotes can weigh up to 50 lbs. Western coyotes range from 20 -30 lbs.
- Eastern coyotes have more color, with odd colorations of red, black, pale or a combination.
- Eastern coyote tracks can be up to 3.5 inches, which is one inch longer than those of the western coyote.

Breeding habits

Monogamous by nature, their bonds with their mate can last several years. The breeding season runs from January to March with gestation being around 63 days. Litter size can vary from four to seven pups but can be as large as twelve. Both parents and older offspring help to care for the young pups. Their dens can be in dense thickets, or they sometimes will use the dens of other animals. After their pups are weaned the den is usually abandoned but can be used in following years. Pups reach adult size after approximately nine months.

Important things to know:

- Coyote breeding season in Connecticut runs from January through March with the peak being mid-February.
- Male coyotes become more aggressive during the breeding season.
- Coyotes are attracted to and can mate with domestic dogs which have not been spayed or neutered.
- Coyote pups are born April to mid-May and females and males can become very protective of their core territory during this time period.

Lifespan

The average lifespan of the coyote is six to eight years. In captivity they can live as long as sixteen years. They can become infected with canine distemper, mange, and parvovirus. They are susceptible to rabies but are not carriers of the mid-Atlantic strain of the virus. Like dogs and wolves, they can suffer

from ticks, fleas, heartworms, and intestinal worms. Whereas wolves used to be their top predator, their decline has allowed for the coyote to prosper. Today, humans are their biggest threat. In urban areas they have to beware of cars, in the rural areas, their major cause of death is trapping and hunting. It is legal to hunt and trap coyote in Connecticut, but there are strict laws and regulations. (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Coyote>)

Territory

A “pack” will consist of a breeding pair, their offspring, and coyotes from other packs that have been accepted into the family. Food supply will be the determining factor when it comes to size of the pack. If their diet is influenced by humans, the pack could be much larger than those who have to survive on a natural diet.

The entire area, territory, in which they live is called a “home range.” Like dogs, they will mark their territory with urine to ward off other coyotes. However, unlike dogs, they use scat to defend the core areas of their territory. If they rely on a natural diet, the territory will be larger than if their diet is assisted by humans.

Diet

As coyotes expanded their habitat, their diets changed. Prior to living in close proximity to humans, they relied heavily on rabbits, mice, and insects. Today they have been known to consume small mammals, birds, livestock, pets, and even fruits and vegetables. They really enjoy munching on pumpkins in the fall.

If You Encounter a Coyote

Coyotes typically are reclusive animals. However, some have adapted to living in urban areas and feel humans pose no threat to them. While attacks are quite rare, if you encounter a coyote, there are things you can do to avoid a confrontation.

- NEVER run or turn your back. Running may change the coyotes’ opinion of you from aggressor to prey.
- If you’re walking a dog, keep them close to you. Pick up the dog if it is small or shorten the leash length for a larger dog. It is important to maintain control of your pet at all times.
- During the breeding/rearing season of January – May, coyotes are particularly defensive. It’s best to remain calm and walk away from them without turning your back. Stare directly into its eyes and stand tall.
- If it not breeding season, you can be more aggressive.

sive. Hazing techniques can be applied. Hazing is a way to help deter them from neighborhoods and reestablish their fear of humans. Stand tall, stare into the eyes of the coyote and shout loudly at it until it runs away. You also can blow a whistle, wave your arms, throw stones or sticks towards the coyote.

- Continue to “haze” the coyote until it leaves the area. If it returns, continue to haze the coyote. They typically will not return after such an encounter.
- Do not interact with a coyote if it appears to be sick. Call authorities and report the incident.
- Protect your pets by keeping cats inside, and dogs leashed. Take walks during the busiest time of day, not early morning, or late evening when coyotes are most likely to be roaming.
- Be mindful of children and pets when they are outdoors.

Native American Mythology

Due to their late arrival on the east coast of the United States, most Native American mythology about the coyote pertains to the tribes of the mid-west and desert southwest.

Within the different tribes, mythological coyotes are often depicted as being clever, intelligent, stealth, and in possession of voracious appetites. The coyote characters can vary widely from tribe to tribe, however. In some tribal myths they are depicted as a cherished hero who teaches and helps humans. In others, they can be seen as a scoundrel who exposes the dangers of negative behaviors such as greed, lying, cheating, and arrogance. Sometimes the coyote is simply a comic trickster, whose lack of wisdom gets him into trouble while his cleverness gets him back out.

In the Arikara tribe (Plains) there is a coyote deity by the name of Chirich (pronounced “schee-reetch.”) He is a clever trickster. He is forever getting himself and others around him into trouble. Like the famous cartoon character Wylie Coyote, he frequently dies or gets harmed only to come back to life where he continues to play his tricks.

Chirich stories are shared to remind us of the consequences of bad behavior and the dangers of associating with harmful characters.

In The Magic Windpipe, we see the trickster coyote Chirich as a thief who steals a magic windpipe from a beautiful Native American girl who lives alone on the edge of a forest. In the end of the story, he is punished severely by a group of braves, nipping dogs, children throwing stones and bumblebees swarming after him. The raging bees settled all over coyote and stung him so hard that he ran howling into the forest. And they kept stinging him until he was well punished for lying and stealing. (www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Legends/The_Magic_Windpipe-Arikara.html)

One thing seems certain, Coyotes are here to stay whether it be in legends or in reality. They are an important part of our ecosystem, and we will need to learn how to adapt to them, just as smoothly as they have learned to adapt to us.

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2020 MS4 Annual Report

By Wade Thomas

In accordance with the requirements of the CT DEEP General Permit for the Discharge of Storm-

water from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, residents of the Town of Haddam are hereby informed that a draft of the 2020 MS4 Annual Report, which summarizes municipal stormwater compliance activities conducted within the Town of Haddam during calendar year 2020.

Residents are hereby encouraged to review the report and submit written comments by March 31, 2021. All comments should be addressed to Wade Thomas, Town MS4 Consultant at wthomas@nlja.com.

Draft Report can be found here: (www.haddam.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4486/f/news/draft_2020_haddam_ms4_annual_report.pdf)

LEGAL NOTICES

PLANNING AND ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the former Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Road, Higganum CT on March 18th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

- Proposed Zoning Text Amendment to the Haddam Zoning Regulations – Section 5.6 C.5 Tattoo and/or body piercing studios with a site plan approval at 310 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT. A copy of existing and proposed text is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk. Applicant/Property Owner: George Smith / Robert Lloyd

Proposed Language

- Tattoo and/or body piercing studios; **provided, however, that existing & licensed tattoo businesses in the Town of Haddam are allowed by site plan review to terminate and abandon their current location and relocate to other zones in the Town which allow personal service establishments.**

Said application is on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam and on the web site at www.haddam.org.

Planning and Zoning Commission, Haddam CT

NOTICE OF DECISION

It was decided at the Town of Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on February 18, 2021 via GoTo Meeting at 7:00 p.m. to approve the following:

- Approval for a special permit to allow 660sq ft in-law apartment 511 Foothills Rd – map 20 lot 7 Applicant: Gene Melansen

Town of Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission

The Town of Haddam shall endeavor to post its Legal Notices with the Haddam News publication. In the event that the weekly publication cannot meet the Town's statutory requirements, the Middletown Press or Hartford Courant shall be utilized to meet said statutory deadlines. Courtesy copies will be published to Haddam News that may or may not be timely. The Town's website is: www.haddam.org.



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Merit Pages News

SPRINGFIELD, MA (02/22/2021)– More than 500 students have been named to the Fall 2020 President's List at Western New England University. To qualify for the President's List, students must achieve a GPA of 3.80 or higher.

The following students have earned their place on Western New England University's distinguished President's List:

Jonathan Civiello, of Killingworth, CT is working toward a BSE in Mechanical Engineering.

Faith Hoynoski, of Higganum, CT is working toward a BA in Communication/Media & Journalism.

Haddam Killingworth News

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Part 2: How Cockaponset State Forest is Managed by DEEP

By Emery Gluck,
Forester, Cockaponset State Forest

Editor's note: This is Part 2 of a two-part story on how CT State forests are managed by DEEP.

Figure 1 The fire-line of a 113 acre 2016 low intensity prescribed fire to promote oak seedlings north of Pataconk Reservoir is patrolled



by Cockaponset's 1967 bombardier. It is outfitted with water tanks, hose, and a pump. In 1905, the State Legislature charged the State Forester with suppressing all wildfires. Over 30,000 acres burned annually during the early 1900's.. Killingworth is 22,912 acres for comparison. Fire equipment is stationed at several State Forests and Parks. Photo by Andy Annino.

The management is helping repopulate other shade-sensitive trees that have been dropping out of the forest as they reach the end of their life span, or as they are dying after being over-topped by taller trees. Pitch pine, aspen, gray birch, black cherry and the occasional white birch and red cedar are very uncommon in the maturing forest but have offspring growing in recently managed parts of Cockaponset that were harvested and/or burned and tended.

Pitch pine (a.k.a. candlewood) is particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that 95% of Connecticut's pitch pine/scrub oak sand plains, one of Connecticut's 13 imperiled ecosystems, have been lost to development. The rest is threatened by overtopping trees, absence of new generations and the

Southern Pine Beetle. Cockaponset only has about 5 acres of Pitch pine.



Figure 2 72 year old Vietnam vet volunteer Steve Lowery tending pitch pine saplings that seeded in on Pine Ledge after a skidder uprooted the mountain laurel and the author felled the hardwoods. Pitch pine seed need somewhat exposed soil as a seed bed. Steve is thinning out pitch pine, so the remaining pines retain ample live crown to remain healthy enough to pitch out low level infestations of the Southern Pine Beetles. Photo Emery Gluck

Approximately half of Cockaponset is passively managed with mortality from windthrow, defoliations, drought and succession shaping the forest. The combination of active and passive management provides a complimentary mix of wildlife habitat.

Thinnings and initial regeneration harvests create canopy gaps that encourage dense regeneration and provide habitat suitable for numerous forest birds including Black and white warbler, Black-throated blue warbler, Eastern wood pewee, Veery, Wood Thrush, and Red eyed vireo.

Figure 3 This winter's initial shelterwood harvest north of Pataconk Reservoir (seen in the background) to promote oak regeneration and habitat for the above-mentioned birds. Audubon Connecticut recommends leaving at least 2 cords/ acres of down wood and logging slash for insect habitat and



bird perches. The lean-to by the water was constructed with softwood timber cut from state lands, sawn at the DEEP sawmill, and constructed by DEEP Park Staff Andy Annino of Killingworth, Seth Jackson and Dave Buckley, both of Haddam. Youth group lean-to camping by permit only. Photo by Emery Gluck.

The harvest in Figure 7 is under contract with Perma Treat Corporation of Durham, which make railroad ties and had won the competitive bid. The father and son team of Jerry and Jeremy Bellows of Gibson Hill Forest Products are the logging contractors. Jerry is a former "Game of Logging" regional champion in the tree-felling competition. His son outdid him last year to become the current champion. The firewood has been sold log truck length to Jack Wiese of Haddam and John Lindner of Chester who process the wood and sells it retail.

Jerry thinned this same stand 20 years ago. The thinning gave the best trees "breathing room" so they could be put on more growth and produce more acorns. In a different part of the stand, the harvest Jerry did was a heavy regeneration harvest that only left a few older trees per acre to promote a new generation of shade-sensitive oaks.



Figure 4 This uncommon small pole stand seeded in 20 years ago after Jerry harvested the previous stand. The white oak (with leaves) was released by the forester by cutting the surrounding overtopping black birches and should now make it to maturity. Photo Emery Gluck.

For the 10 years after that harvest, an extremely valuable young forest habitat, which are among the most under-represented upland habitat, had

developed. Young forest habitat provides critical habitat for:



Image courtesy of the Wildlife Division

Young forest habitat is important for its dense brushy structure, nesting and feeding opportunities. New forests are continuously needed to be created for this ephemeral habitat to remain on the landscape.



Figure 5 Young forest habitat developing after a 6 year old patch cut off Old County Road. Oaks (with leaves) and pitch pine are thriving. The latter were seeded by young tour participants from cones the forester collected and opened after the harvest and a 2016 prescribed burn. Photo Emery Gluck.

Forest management increases flowering plants that are used by pollinators. It also plays an important role in carbon sequestration (the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere) and storage (the amount of carbon stored). Carbon sequestration rates are generally greater in younger forests (20- 70 years old) and carbon storage is generally greater in older forests. Forest management transfers carbon stored in live trees into durable woods products. This creates favorable conditions for the removal of additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by promoting additional tree growth. The use of durable wood product from well managed forests instead of more energy-intensive materials such as concrete, steel and carpet, lessens society's carbon footprint.

Forest management is the most economical way to promote biodiversity in upland forests. With sustained management, Cockaponset State Forest should continue to be a great ecological and recreational asset for this area.

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