

Aerial Views of Fairfield's Coastal Area, Including Four Estuaries On Long Island Sound

Fairfield, Connecticut



Fairfield Harbor Management Commission*

September 10, 2023

* The jurisdiction of the Harbor Management Commission and Fairfield Harbor Management Plan encompasses Southport Harbor and Fairfield's tidal portion of Sasco Creek. Although the Pine Creek, Fairfield Beach, and Ash Creek sections of the Town's coastal area are not part of this jurisdiction, the Commission presents these photos in an effort to increase public awareness of the extent and values of the Town's exceptional coastal resources.

Presentation prepared by Geoff Steadman. All photos © by G. Steadman.

Sasco Creek

Sasco Creek forms part of the boundary between Fairfield and the Town of Westport and drains a smaller area (about 10 square miles) than Fairfield's three other coastal river basins. The Town's Southport Beach is a prominent feature at the mouth of the Creek. The surface waters and intertidal areas within Town jurisdiction are part of the Southport Harbor Management Area.





Southport Harbor at the mouth of the Mill River is a center of boating activity in western Long Island Sound and one of the most scenic and historic locations on the Connecticut coast.

The Fairfield Harbor Management Commission is responsible for guiding the harbor's beneficial use and conservation according to the Town's Southport Harbor Management Plan.

The Pine Creek estuary occupies much of the central part of Fairfield's coastal area. The estuary, sheltered from Long Island Sound by the Pine Creek barrier beach, is characterized by extensive wetlands. In the early 1970s, the Town initiated a program to restore degraded tidal wetlands and their associated ecological values. This is one of the most successful and celebrated marsh restoration projects in CT.



Pine Creek

The Fairfield Beach area, from Pine Creek to Ash Creek and including Penfield Reef, is characterized by long-established shore area neighborhoods, tidal wetlands, and sandy beach areas, including the Town's Jennings and Penfield beaches, all within the coastal floodplain.

Fairfield Beach



Ash Creek



Bridgeport

Fairfield

Ash Creek forms part of Fairfield's eastern boundary with the City of Bridgeport. Of Fairfield's four estuaries, the Ash Creek estuary is the most surrounded and impacted by development; it also contains significant tidal wetland areas. Prominent features include the Town's South Benson Marina and Penfield Mills-Ash Creek Open Space Area as well as Great Marsh Island.



End of Presentation

The Harbor Management Commission
appreciates everyone's interest and support
for continued management of our Town's
exceptional water and waterfront resources
in the public interest.