

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**January 2017**

### **Overview**

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity.

There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in January 2017.

### **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.

There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in January 2017.

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**February 2017**

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in February 2017.

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**March 2017**

### Overview

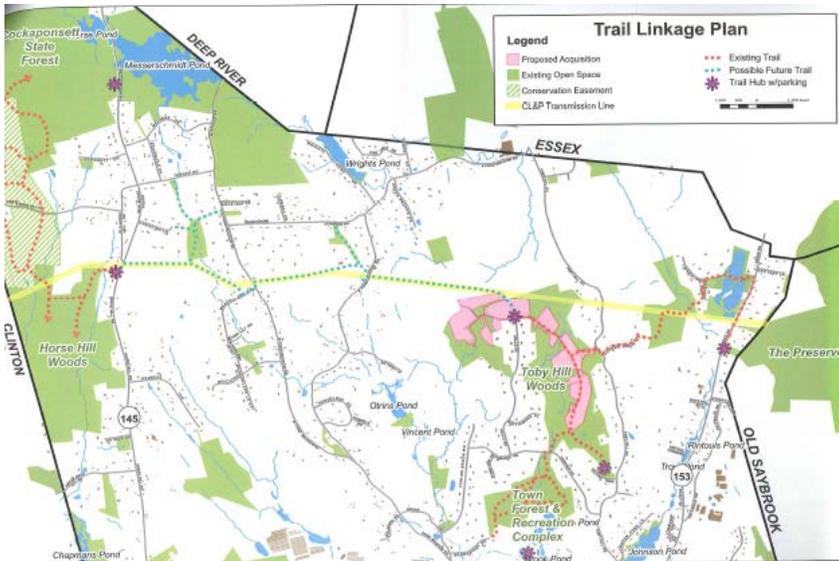
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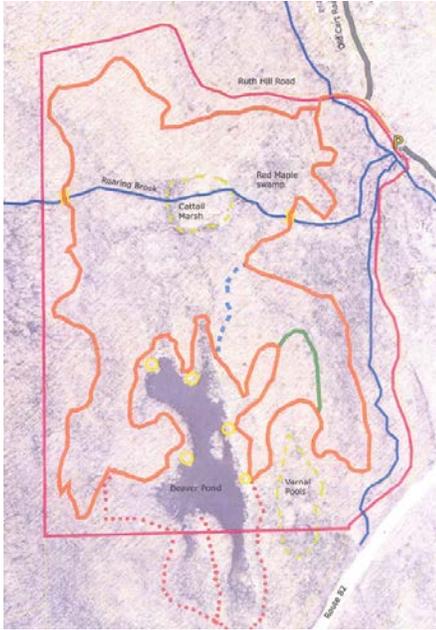
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Westbrook	Toby Hill Woods	84.24
Haddam Land Trust, Inc.	Beaver Ledges	136.272
Kent Land Trust, Inc.	West Aspetuck Wetlands	25.333

**Town of Westbook  
Toby Hill Woods  
Fee Acquisition - 84.24 Acres**



This property, within a 273 acre developing greenway, closes a significant gap needed to connect other Town-owned open space and significantly enhances the creation of a regional trail system. This sensitive ecological site contains mixed hardwood forest, red maple swamps and scrub-shrub wetlands, varying topographies, knolls and vistas. Future plans include linkage to the system of trails to the east at The Preserve in Old Saybrook and to the west at Cockaponset State Forest. The unfragmented corridor of contiguous forest with McVeagh Brook, a perennial stream and eight vernal pools, provides water, a safe habitat, food cover and safe migration for wildlife. There are multiple resource access values with four access points, wood roads, passive recreational uses such as hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and other forms of low-impact recreation.

**Haddam Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Beaver Ledges**  
**Fee Acquisition - 136.272 Acres**

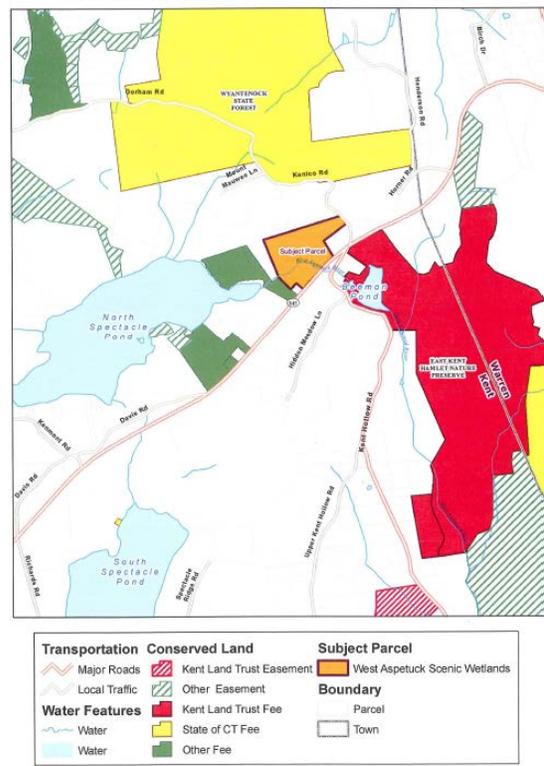


This acquisition is a key piece in a block of undisturbed and unfragmented forest, elemental to wildlife conservation in the Connecticut River Watershed and the Menunketesuck-Cockaponset Regional Greenway. It is bounded primarily by Cockaponset State Forest and contains the majority of an eight acre, active beaver pond (the Connecticut River Watershed Council owns a portion of the pond to the south). The preservation of this property leads to the creation of 318 acres of unfragmented forest, providing passive recreation opportunities such as fishing, hiking and nature observation. Beaver Ledges is the key parcel that ties several existing conservation lands together. The riparian communities of three brooks join on the property. It includes mature hardwood forests, rolling topography, dry uplands, rock outcroppings, glacial erratics, freshwater marshes, 8 vernal pools and the headwaters of Roaring Brook, a coldwater wild trout stream.

**Kent Land Trust, Inc.**  
**West Aspetuck Wetlands**  
**Fee Acquisition – 25.333 Acres**



West Aspetuck Scenic Wetlands Surrounding Area



This acquisition, on Segar Mountain and Kenico Roads, includes a 9± acre scenic wetland pond and gently sloping upland forest. The pond is downstream from North Spectacle Lake and constitutes the upper reaches of the West Aspetuck River, designated by the DEEP as a Class AA stream. There is extensive beaver activity, lodges and a large beaver dam. A driveway from Kenico Road traverses the upland portion of the property through a closed-canopied, mixed hardwood forest and provides access to the interior, passing old stone walls and overlooking the wetland pond. The property offers passive recreation, wildlife study and nature photography.

Supplemental funding was received from the U.S. Department of the Interior Fish & Wildlife Service under the Highlands Conservation Act.

## Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
McNamara	Lyme	N/A	N/A	123.16	\$610,000	Addition to Nehantic State Forest
Marchand	East Hampton	N/A	N/A	22.0	\$115,000	Addition to Meshomasic State Forest
Tilcon, Inc.	Groton	LWCF Seymour Trust GOSA	\$333,500 \$266,000 \$117,750	199.67	\$67,750	Critical Habitat Protection

### McNamara Property

99 Keeney Road, Lyme

Fee Acquisition – 123.16 Acres



This mostly wooded property, within the Eight Mile River Watershed, contains a vernal pool and Beaver Brook, a tributary of the Eight Mile River, a National Wild and Scenic designated river. This property, southerly of the Beaver Brook Farm, was the highest priority for acquisition in the Nehantic State Forest Management Plan. It provides additional access to and enhances the already established trail network, allowing for passive and active recreational uses such as hiking, biking, hunting and fishing.

**Marchand Property**  
**White Birch Road, East Hampton**  
**Fee Acquisition – 22.0 Acres**



This entirely forested property, with walking trails and stone walls, is located at the northeast corner of East Hampton, near the Glastonbury and Marlborough town lines. It abuts Meshomasic State Forest to the west and north and provides improved access and maintenance capabilities to the forest, extending ownership up to the gravel roadway (White Birch Road extension). The DEEP Natural Diversity Database identifies a timber rattlesnake habitat in this vicinity. The timber rattlesnake is a species of greatest conservation need. This purchase will allow passive and active recreational uses such as hiking, biking and hunting.

**Tilcon, Inc. Property**  
**Groton**  
**Fee Acquisition – 199.67 Acres**



The Tilcon property consists of 199.67 acres of land located along Gold Star Highway, Rogers Road and Paulson Road in Groton. This new, stand-alone property features a significant Connecticut critical habitat, a 44 acre pitch pine/scrub oak woodland which is the largest remaining unprotected woodland of this type in the State. Pitch pine/scrub oak barrens have been identified as one of the thirteen most imperiled ecosystems in Connecticut. Hardwood forest, shrub wetlands and bare rock cover the remaining acreage, with various streams and trails running throughout the property. The Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) contributed funds towards the purchase of the property and entered into a Stewardship Agreement with DEEP to assist in the day-to-day management. Additional funding was made available by the George Dudley Seymour Trust Fund and through a Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWCF) administered by the National Park Service. The acquisition provides opportunities for hiking, bird watching, and other passive recreational uses in the area.

## Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

**April 2017**

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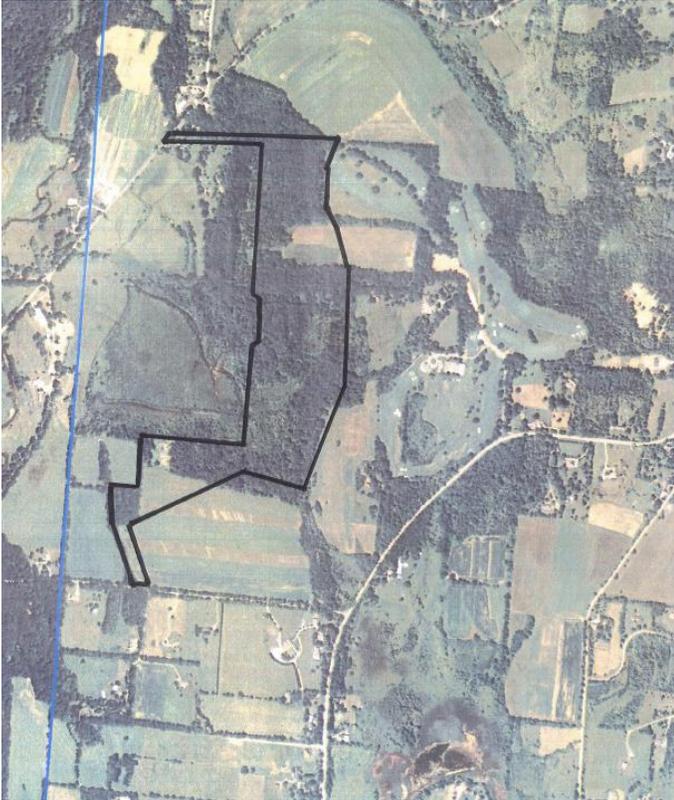
Sponsor	Project	Acres
New Canaan Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Silvermine – Fowler Preserve	6.353
Sharon Land Trust, Inc.	Benton Hill Preserve	72.171

**New Canaan Land Conservation Trust, Inc.**  
**Silvermine – Fowler Preserve, New Canaan**  
**Fee Acquisition 6.353 Acres**



This parcel sits between the historic Silvermine neighborhood and the existing 41-acre Kelley Upland Sanctuary, owned by the New Canaan Land Trust, Inc. This is an ideal site for a greenway for people and wildlife, expanding and enhancing public access from a busy thoroughfare, to an existing trail system. Adding the Silvermine-Fowler Preserve will create 47 acres of contiguous preserved open space. It is home to three species of bat listed as Species of Special Concern by the Natural Diversity Data Base of State-Listed Species. There is a valuable range of wildlife habitat, meadows, woodlands, wetlands and a small pond, crucial to resident wildlife and migratory bird species. Recreational catch and release fishing will also be permitted at the pond. The Trust for Public Land assisted the New Canaan Land Trust, Inc. with this acquisition.

**Sharon Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Benton Hill Preserve, Sharon**  
**Fee Acquisition 72.171 Acres**



The Benton Hill Preserve contains the first vista, seen by motorists entering Connecticut from New York, visible from Route 343. This ridgeline parcel contains a large wetland complex and important natural communities. It protects a large forest corridor, affording seclusion, food sources and a unique and varied, high-quality habitat for many wildlife species. It is within one mile of several other protected parcels including the 67 acre Talbot Farm. The Sharon Land Trust, Inc. will create a small, gravel off-road parking area along Benton Hill Road and develop a trail system with guidance from the DEEP Wildlife Division.

Supplemental funding was received from the U.S. Department of the Interior Fish & Wildlife Service under the Highlands Conservation Act.



## **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

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## Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

**May 2017**

### Overview

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Darien	Stoney Brook Park	1.245

**Town of Darien and Darien Land Trust**  
**Stony Brook Park**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This property abuts Stony Brook, a tributary to Long Island Sound, protecting pre-existing wetlands and a floodplain. The Town and Darien Land Trust worked together to acquire this parcel which will establish a pedestrian greenway through other town-owned property and link the Town Hall campus (Senior Center, Community Center and Arts Center) to surrounding parkland via a greenway from Hecker Avenue to town services (library, police dept., etc.) and amenities.

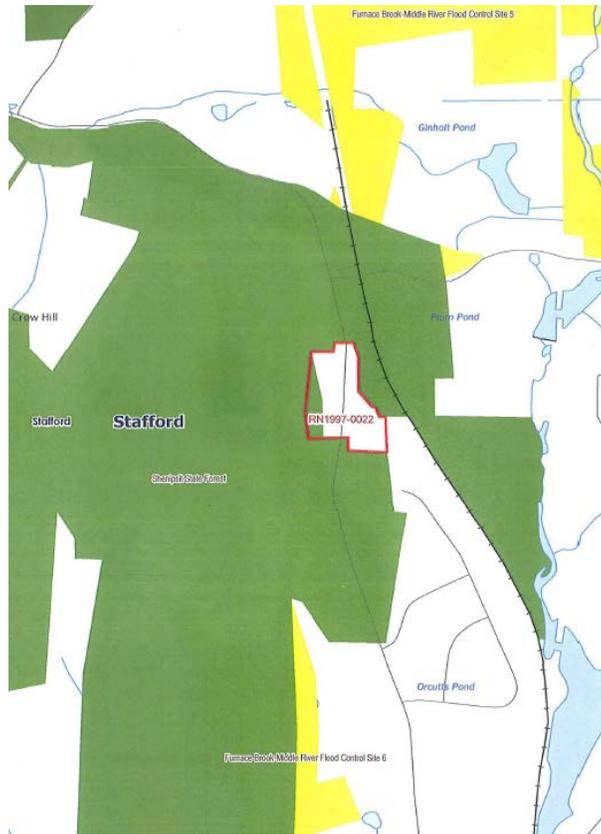
The Town will create a nature trail for passive recreational uses, encourage pedestrian access and enhance pedestrian connections to downtown Darien mass transit connections, via bus.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Phillips Property	Racker Road, Stafford	---	---	15.27	---	\$90,000	Addition to Shenipsit State Forest
C & J Custom Homes	Pucker Street, Coventry	---	---	40.1	---	\$90,000	Addition to Hop River State Park Linear Trail
Geer Trust Property	Colonel Ledyard Hwy (rear), Ledyard	US Fish & Wildlife Service Pittman-Robertson Grant	\$396,000	104.87	---	\$0	Addition to Rose Hill Wildlife Management Area
GF&G Property	Valley Service Road, North Haven	George Dudley Seymour Trust & The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven Quinnipiac River Fund	\$190,000	23.7	Gas Line Easement	\$0	Addition to Quinnipiac River State Park

**Phillips (a/k/a Bren) Property  
Racker Road, Stafford  
Fee Acquisition**



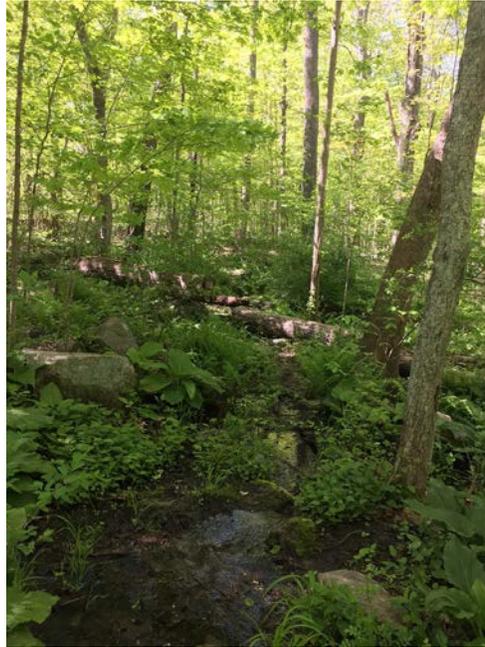
This acquisition consists of two parcels, a 7± acre parcel on the west side of Racker Road (entirely surrounded by Shenipsit State Forest) and an 8.27 acre parcel on the east side of Racker Road (almost entirely surrounded by Shenipsit State Forest). Both sides are wooded with areas of wetlands and stone walls. There are old stone foundations, chimneys and an old well (to be capped). This acquisition resolves a boundary/inholding issue within the State forest and prevents likely future development. This property will offer passive recreational uses and additional hunting opportunities.

**C & J Custom Homes Property**  
**Pucker Street, Coventry**  
**Fee Acquisition**



Situated between the Hop River State Park Linear Trail and the Hop River, this parcel has 2,190± feet of rail trail and 4,643± feet of river frontage. It is mostly wooded with wetlands, preserving the Hop River greenway and buffering the trail. This is a great opportunity for a kayak-canoe launch site and a trail head. It provides a good fishing opportunity for stocked trout on a moderate to large river, close to an urban center (Willimantic). It is a valuable riparian wildlife habitat for wood turtles (a Species of Special Concern). The State Plan of Conservation and Development identifies the Hop River as a priority conservation aquatic system. An old gravel pit, filled with water abuts the trail and an Algonquin gas line runs through the property.

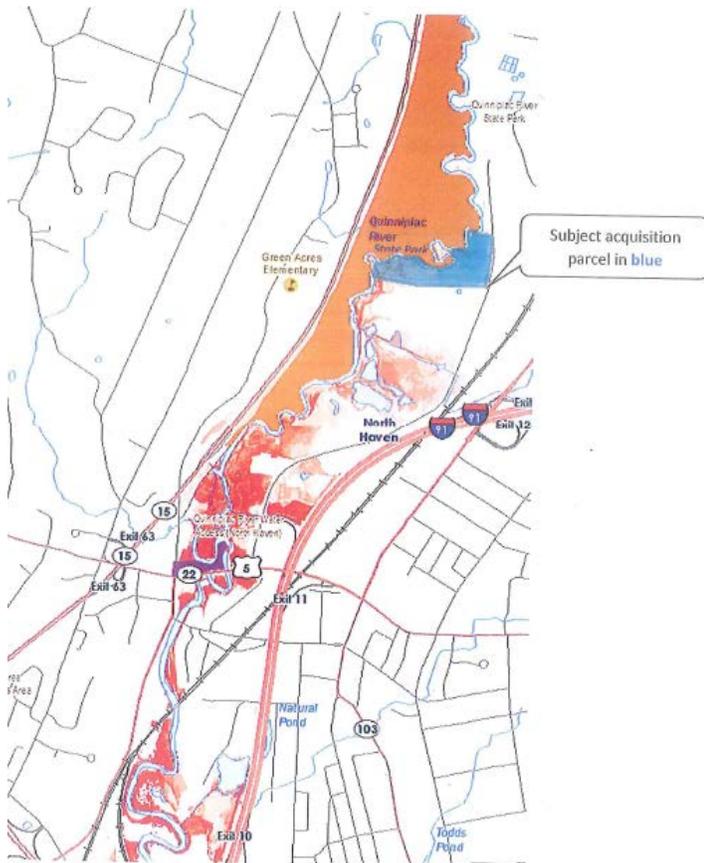
**Geer Trust Property**  
**Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard**  
**Fee Acquisition**



The Rose Hill Wildlife Management Area (RHWMA) abuts this rear 104.87 acre property to the north and east. It has a varied topography and is mostly wooded with stone walls scattered throughout. A section of a blue-blazed hiking trail, the Pequot Trail, managed by the CT Forest and Park Association, runs 4,000± feet through the property, roughly from the southeast corner by Rose Hill toward the northeast corner. The RHWMA public parking lots, on Route 117, are northerly of the parcel. The property has been in the Geer family for ten generations. The 53± acre homestead on Colonel Ledyard Highway is still occupied by ninth generation descendants of the original owner, George Geer, who arrived from England in 1635 and settled here in 1658 with his brother Thomas. This property also provides wetland and headwater protection of Joe Clark Brook, which supports wild trout.

This property will be added to the Rose Hill Wildlife Management Area. This purchase was funded, in its entirety, by a Pittman-Robertson grant from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**G F & G Property**  
**Valley Service Road, North Haven**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This 23.7 acre property, with 3,080± feet of frontage on the Quinnipiac River, supports upland marsh migration within the Quinnipiac River tidal marsh system. This tidal marsh system is one of the largest of its kind in the State and one of the few that has a higher than average potential for significant dry undeveloped upland to tidal marsh migration by the year 2100, as identified by the CT Long Island Sound Sea-Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan (CELCP) supports marsh migration as a conservation priority. This acquisition provides passive recreation opportunities and public access to the Quinnipiac River in a highly urbanized tidal segment, where public access is sorely lacking, especially for car-top kayak/boat access – long a department priority for this segment of the river.

Funding for this acquisition was provided by the George Dudley Seymour Trust Fund and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Quinnipiac River Fund.

## Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

**June 2017**

### Overview

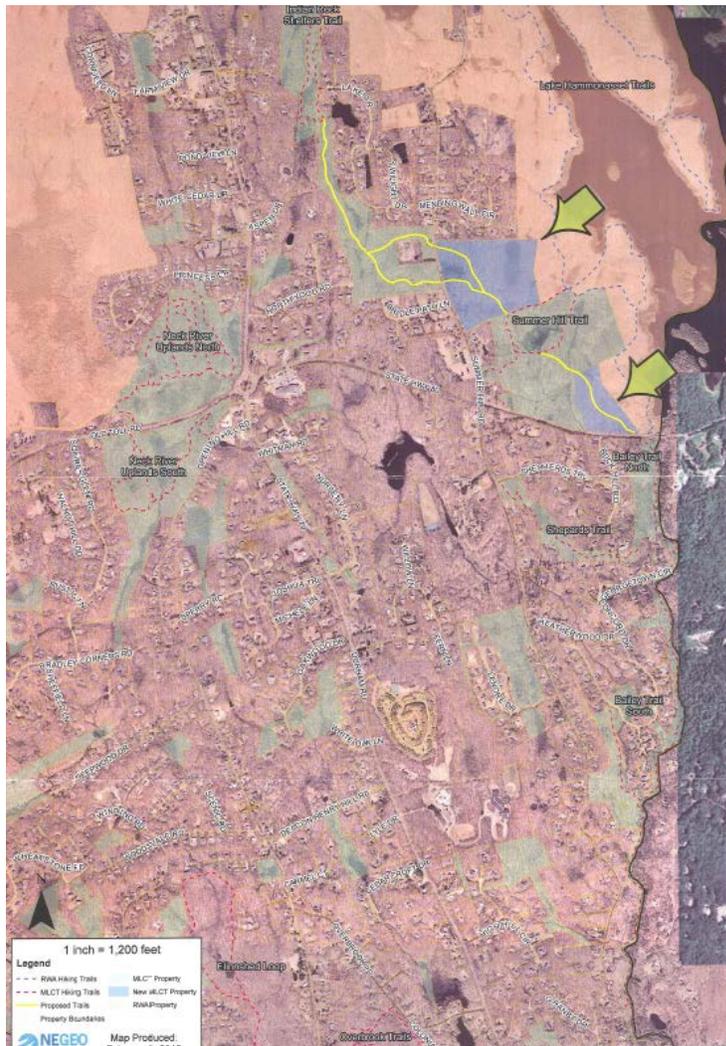
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Madison Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	So. Central CT Reg. Water Auth. Class III Parcels	63.91
East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.	Bloch Property	12.556
CT Farmland Trust, Inc. & Morris Land Trust, Inc.	Farnham Farm (Conservation Easement)	128.328

**South Central CT Regional Water Authority Class III Parcels  
Madison Land Conservation Trust, Inc.  
Fee Acquisition**



This acquisition consisting of two parcels: 47± acres on Summer Hill Road and 16± acres on Old Toll Road (Rte. 80), is important to the long-term health of the Hammonasset River Watershed and its rich natural resources. Both parcels were approved subdivisions within larger “Class I” and “Class II” watersheds. The parcels abut another 80± acre Madison Land Conservation Trust owned parcel creating a 145± acre contiguous tract and connect to several other open space lands owned by the Water Authority, the CT DEEP, the Towns of Madison & Killingworth, the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust and a 2,000 acre conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy, creating an assemblage of 9,000± acres of open space in the immediate area. The parcels consist of uplands and wetlands, hosting tributaries within the upper Hammonasset River Watershed and provide a buffer for its headwaters. It will further safeguard Lake Hammonasset, a significant public drinking water supply, expand opportunities for recreation and insure that the water quality remains high for fish and other wildlife using the Hammonasset River Watershed, one of CT’s premiere cold-water fish habitats.

## East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.

### Bloch Property

### Fee Acquisition

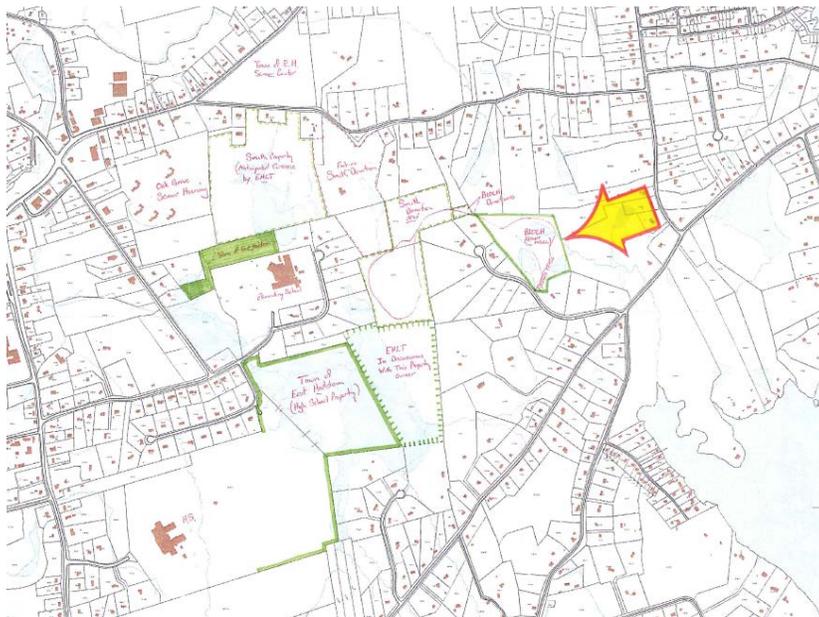


This is the first parcel of several open space parcels that will eventually connect young and old residents and provide expanded hiking opportunities near the center (more populated) village of Moodus, connecting to the East Haddam High School, East Haddam Elementary School, the Senior Center and the Oak Grove Senior Housing. The East Haddam Land Trust hopes to eventually own and manage 100± acres when this project comes to fruition.

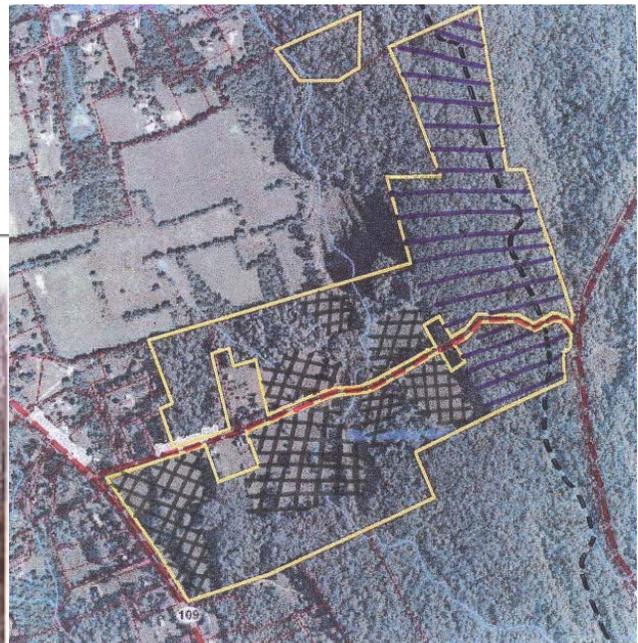
Commensurate with this acquisition, the sellers, Phillip & Deborah Bloch, agreed to donate a half acre of additional property, which connects the subject to 18± acres, to be donated to East Haddam Land Trust by Thomas Smith. This will save 30± acres.

This parcel contains vernal pools and a wetland that eventually drains via Wigwam Brook, into the Moodus River and then into the Salmon River. It contains multiple upland forest habitats including an old Christmas tree plantation.

Public access will be off Southwinds Road, and a loop trail will be constructed on this property for passive recreational uses.



**Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc. & Morris Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Farnham Farm, Morris**  
**Easement Acquisition**



- Mattatuck Trail 
- Proposed Public Access Area 
- Public Roads 
- Active Agricultural Fields 



This easement purchase by the CT Farmland Trust and the Morris Land Trust will preserve, in perpetuity, a major portion of the 138-acre Farnham Farm, established in 1735 and owned by the Farnham family since that time, as a dairy farm. The entire eastern boundary and more than half of the southern boundary (nearly 1 mile) is Class 1 and Class 2 Watershed land, owned by the City of Waterbury. This picturesque property contains 46± acres of prime and statewide important farmland soils, preserving local agricultural heritage, 61± acres of forestland containing the Mattatuck Blue Trail, 18± acres of wetlands including Slab Meadow Brook, which crosses the property and is a tributary to the Pitch and Morris Reservoirs (Waterbury drinking water supply), two unnamed and several intermittent streams. It is also a habitat for the endangered New England Cottontail.

This preservation was a collaboration between the CT Farmland Trust, the Morris Land Trust, the State of CT DEEP and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which provided a Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program grant, to preserve the agricultural portions of this property.

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**July 2017**

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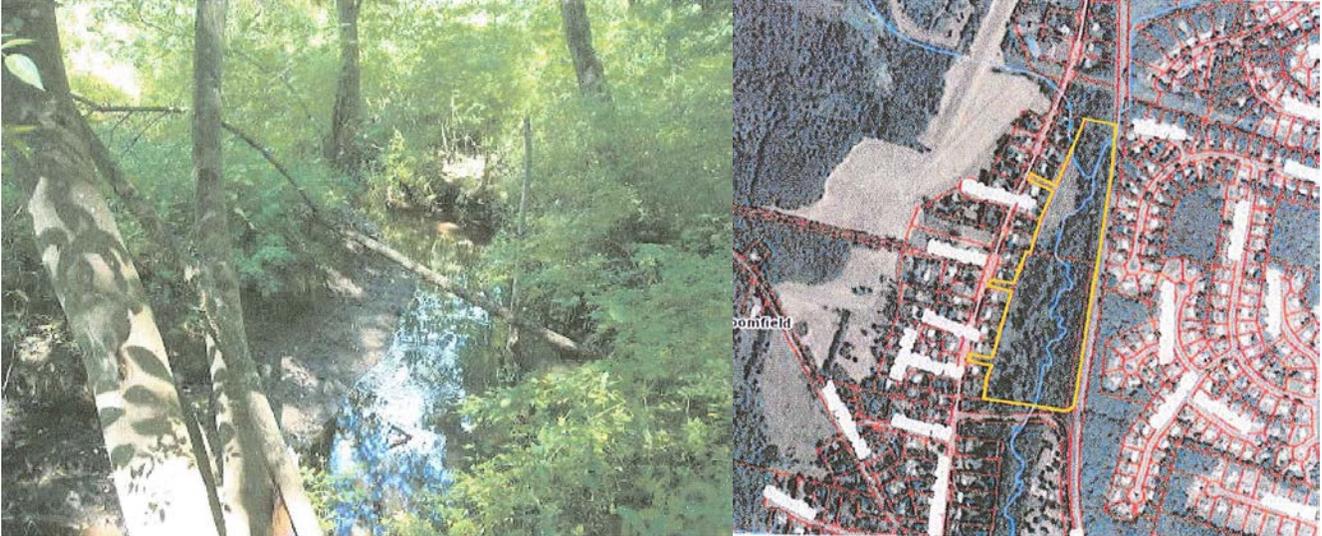
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<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Wintonbury Land Trust, Inc.	Evans Property, Bloomfield	22.144

**Wintonbury Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Evans Property, Bloomfield**  
**Fee Acquisition**



The Evans Property can be accessed from the easterly side of Tunxis Avenue (Route 189) and the northerly side of Dorothy Drive. The Griffin Line Railroad tracks run along the parcel's east side. It is about 1.25 miles north of Bloomfield center. The Tunxis Floodwater Retention Reservoir #3, a regional park with tennis courts, a patio, a shade structure, picnic tables, a community garden and a small path leading to the water's edge, is northwest of the property on the opposite side of Tunxis Avenue. Wash Brook, a tributary of the Park River runs through the center of the parcel, from south to north. 70% of the parcel is freshwater wetlands. It is inherently valuable for drainage, woodland habitat and potentially some form of small-scale agriculture, but its primary importance will be as a natural conduit, connecting existing and future transportation/passive recreation corridors. Plans are being developed for this section of the East Coast Greenway (ECG), running north/south through Bloomfield Center, connecting Simsbury and West Hartford/Hartford, along the Griffin Line Railroad. A spur trail is planned which will connect the ECG to the Reservoir.

## Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes. The following acquisition was closed in July 2017. Additional information on this project follows.

Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	Fee Acreage	State Share	Purpose of Acquisition
Sciongay II	Clinton/ Westbrook	George Seymour Trust	\$459,000	5.95	\$41,000	Addition to Menunketesuck WMA

### Sciongay II Property Clinton/Westbrook Fee Acquisition



The Sciongay II property consists of 5.95 acres of land located at 183 Chapman Mill Pond Road in both Clinton and Westbrook. The property is the remaining land of the original Sciongay acquisition in 2013 and connects to the Town of Westbrook's open space property on the east side of Chapman Mill Pond – linking nearly 250 acres of open space. The land is on the southern side of Chapman Mill Pond and the Menunketesuck River and will provide additional access to the newly created Menunketesuck Wildlife Management Area. A fishway was recently constructed over the dam connecting the river and the pond, allowing anadromous fish further access upstream. Improvements located on the newly acquired property will be removed, providing future educational and recreational activities. The property was acquired with a combination of funds from the George Dudley Seymour Trust and the State.

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**August 2017**

### **Overview**

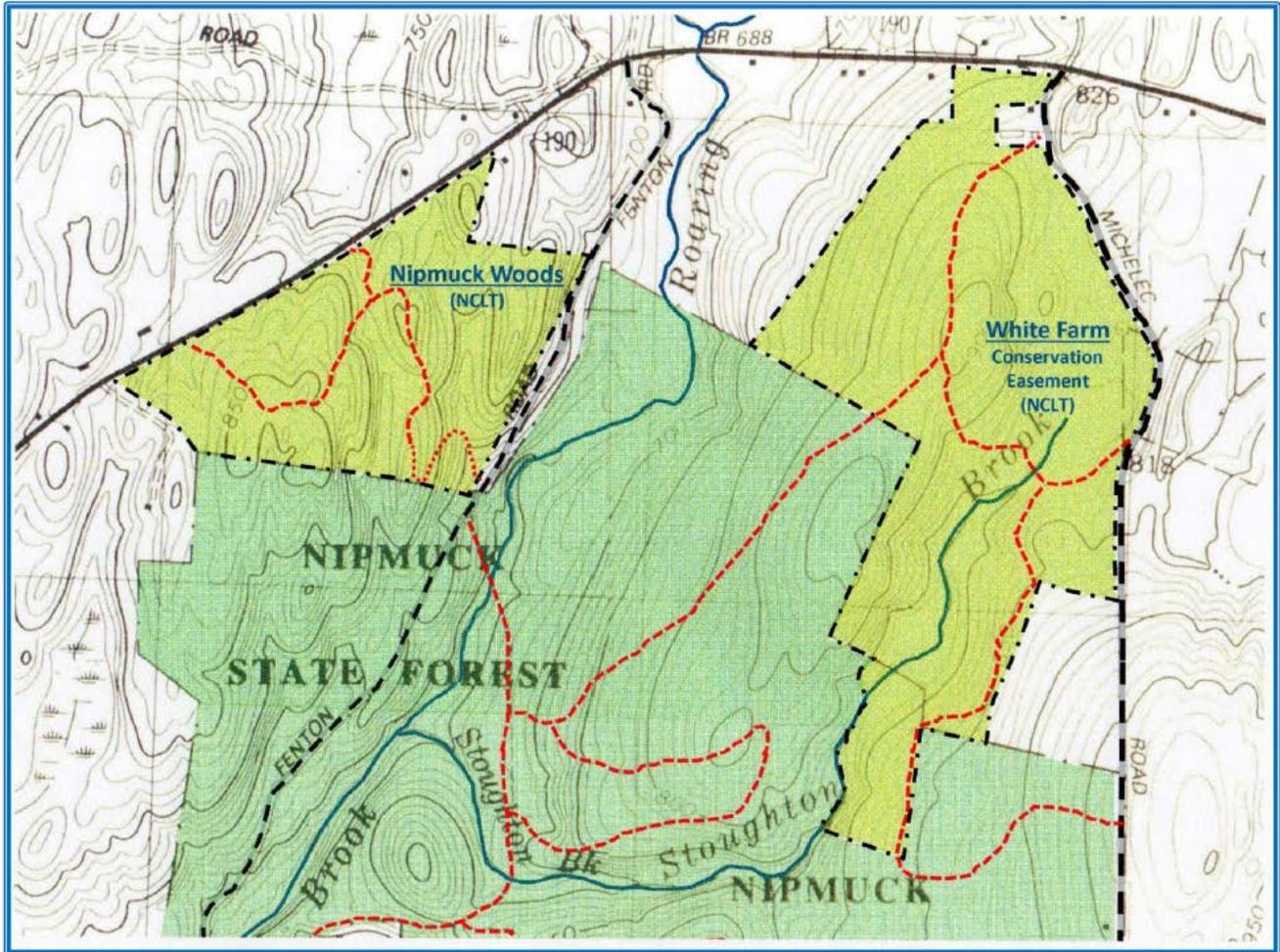
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### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity. The following grant was closed in August 2017. Additional information on this project follows.

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc.	Nipmuck Woods, Stafford	79.81

**Nipmuck Woods, Stafford**  
**Northern Connecticut Land Trust**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This 80± acre forested parcel is located in southeast Stafford, adjacent to Nipmuck State Forest, which further connects to White Farm, a 173± acre property preserved by Conservation Easement by Northern CT Land Trust with DEEP open space grant funding. There are two existing parking areas on Route 190, and the land trust will add new signage and trail markings along existing logging trails and add a new trail which will cross Roaring Brook and extend to White Farm. This acquisition provides forest, wildlife and watershed protection of Roaring Brook, one of 15 enhanced wild trout management streams in Connecticut. It will provide additional opportunities for passive recreation and wildlife observation adding to a large unfragmented forest block protected by Nipmuck State Forest.

## Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	Fee Acreage	State Share	Purpose of Acquisition
Corpridge Land Co. LLC	Rocky Hill	Corpridge Land Co. LLC	\$1,372,750*	14.45	\$0 Donation	Donated Addition to Dinosaur State Park

\* *approximate fair market value of donated property*

### Corpridge Land Co., LLC Property

#### Rocky Hill

#### Fee Acquisition



The Corpridge Land Corporation, LLC property consists of 14.45 acres of land located at 255 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill. The property was generously donated to the DEEP to expand Dinosaur State Park. Extending from Capital Boulevard north to West Street, this mainly wooded property will provide additional passive recreation opportunities, and will help expand and protect this popular park.

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**September 2017**

### **Overview**

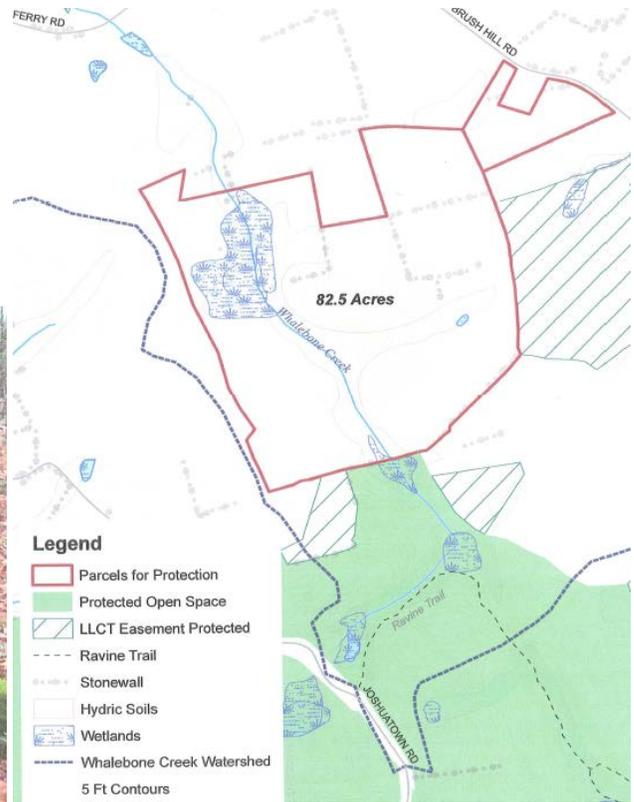
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### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity. The following grant was closed in September 2017. Additional information on this project follows.

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Hawthorne Preserve, Lyme	82.27

**Hawthorne Preserve, Lyme  
Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.  
Fee Acquisition**



This 82.27 acre parcel protects nearly ¼ mile of Whalebone Creek and associated wetlands in the Whalebone Creek Watershed. Whalebone Creek flows into Roaring Brook and Whalebone Cove, which contains Wetlands of International Importance. This brackish tidal wetland system is one of the least disturbed and most pristine large-river tidal marsh systems in the nation. It provides vital breeding, foraging, resting and migratory pathways for rare and diverse bird species and the waters contain the highest fish diversity in the nation, further protecting the CT River and Long Island Sound. The property is heavily forested abutting Lyme Land Trust property to the south, which in turn connects to Nature Conservancy Property and the Selden Neck State Park, to form a block of contiguous forestland totaling almost 1000 acres. Existing trails on Lyme Land Trust and Nature Conservancy property pass nearby and could be easily extended to include the Hawthorne Preserve. Public access and parking will be along Brush Hill Road.

## **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.

There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in September 2017.

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**October 2017**

### **Overview**

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in October 2017.

### **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.

There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in October 2017.

## Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

**November 2017**

### Overview

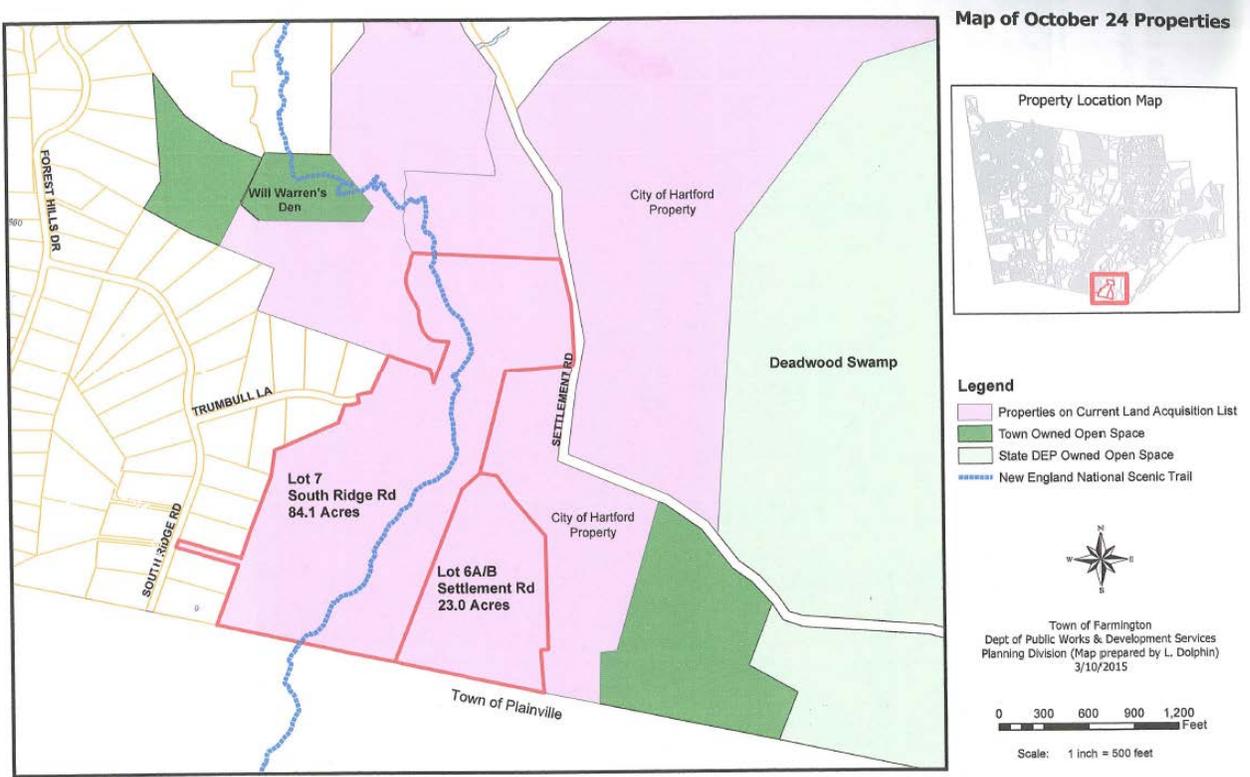
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### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity. The following grants were closed in November 2017. Additional information on these projects follow.

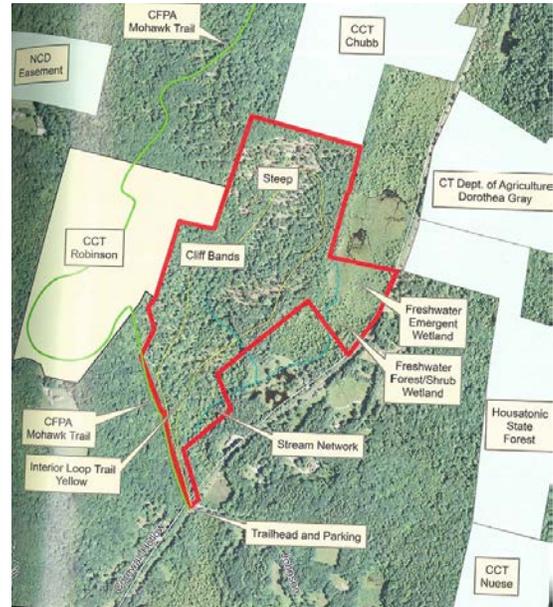
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Farmington	South Ridge Road & Settlement Road	90.48
Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.	Evans Property	90.614

**South Ridge Road & Settlement Road  
Town of Farmington  
Fee Acquisition**



The two parcels (shown as Lots 7 & 6A/B) are within a large, unfragmented woodland and traprock ridge habitat, with wetlands at its western base, a steep upward slope rising to a ridgeline and a gradual downward eastern slope. Nearly 2/3rds of a mile of Metacomet Blue Blazed Trail (managed by the CT Forest and Park Association) traverses the ridgeline. The Metacomet Trail is now known as a National New England Scenic Trail. The parcels abut other Municipal and State-owned open space, encompassing nearly 900 acres of contiguous undeveloped woodland and wildlife habitat. Several other side trails will provide access to adjacent properties and others will be added for passive recreational use.

**Evans Property, Cornwall**  
**Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. (CCTI)**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This forested property on Cornwall Hollow Road (Route 43) connects to other large parcels of protected wilderness and directly abuts the Blue Blazed Mohawk Trail (formerly part of the Appalachian Trail). The land contains important habitats, cover and food sources for wildlife including edge, deciduous and coniferous forest, rock outcrops, wetlands and the headwater stream for the Hollenbeck River which drains into the Housatonic River. The topography is rugged and its ridge offers spectacular views. The State of CT Natural Diversity Database shows several endangered species documented on or very near the Evans property. The adjacent Robinson property, also owned by CCTI, contains the Mohawk Trail, where it traverses two summits. CCTI plans to combine the Robinson and Evans parcels to form a 152-acre Mohawk Trail Preserve. The Evans property also directly abuts CCTI's 101-acre Chubb conservation easement and is across the road from the Housatonic State Forest. The property contains an old logging road that will make a nice loop trail that can be accessed from Route 43 or from Mohawk Trail.

In addition to the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Funds, CCTI obtained additional grant funds for this acquisition, from the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, under Public Law 108-421 {H.R. 1964}, known as the Highlands Conservation Act or Highlands Act.

## Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes. The following acquisition was closed in November 2017. Additional information on this project follows.

Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	Fee Acreage	State Share	Purpose of Acquisition
Cedar Woods Estates	Voluntown	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$745,000	196.7	\$0	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

### Cedar Woods Estates Property

#### Voluntown

#### Fee Acquisition



The Cedar Woods Estates, LLC property consists of 196.7 acres of land located at 800 Ekonk Hill Road (Route 49), Voluntown. The land will be added to the Pachaug State Forest. The property consists of a mixture of open fields and woodlands along with a large portion of Douglas Swamp. Acquisition of this property will provide additional passive recreation and hunting opportunities. Funding for this acquisition was through a Pittman - Robertson grant administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

## **Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission**

**December 2017**

### **Overview**

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity.

There were no open space and watershed land acquisition grants closed in December 2017.

*In December 2017, the Department made awards on 23 new Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant projects totaling some 2,005 acres. Details on these projects are provided at the end of this monthly report.*

## Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut’s primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State’s system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes. The following acquisitions were closed in December 2017. Additional information on these projects follow.

Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	Acreage	State Share	Purpose of Acquisition
Goodspeed Airport	15 Lumberyard Rd, E. Haddam	Goodspeed Airport LLC	100%	57.12 Easement	\$0 (Donation)	Grant of Scenic Easement and Development Rights
CT River & Chapman Pond Property	East Haddam	Timothy Mellon	\$22,000*	7.77	\$0 (Donation)	Addition to Richs Island WMA

\* approximate fair market value of donated property

### Goodspeed Airport

#### East Haddam

#### Grant of Scenic Easement and Development Rights



This donation was supported by the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, the authority on the identification of natural and traditional riverway scene in the lower CT River Valley, in order to protect the scenic quality of the CT River.

This easement prohibits expansion of the existing airport and restricts future uses of the property should it ever cease to be used as an airport.

**Connecticut River & Chapman Pond Property**  
**East Haddam**  
**Fee Acquisition**



This 7.77 acre donation, with frontage on the CT River and Chapman Pond, has an address of CT River Road although it has no vehicular or pedestrian access. It is southerly of Goodspeed Airport, westerly of Chapman Pond and southeasterly of Richs Island, a DEEP Wildlife Management Area. It is only accessible by watercraft and will be added to Richs Island WMA.

## 2017 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Awards

Grants were awarded for the following projects in December 2017. As these projects close, details will be provided in future monthly reports.

**Town: Colebrook**

**Project Title: Deer Hill 87 Property**

**Sponsor: Colebrook Land Conservancy, Inc.**

**Grant: \$81,000**

**Acreage: 87 acres**

This undeveloped, transitional hardwoods forested property is located in southeastern Colebrook in the southern Berkshire Range. The topographic variations (12'- 1,400' ASL) include ridgeline, summit, escarpment, bottomland, hemlock ravine, and headwater stream habitats similar to that of Algonquin State Forest, located to the north. There is at least two threatened or endangered species locales that intersect this property.

**Town: Cornwall**

**Project Title: Matland Tarradiddle**

**Sponsor: Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.**

**Address: 407 Sharon Goshen Turnpike**

**Grant: \$180,000**

**Acreage: 72 acres**

This property includes former farm land located just northeast of West Cornwall. Having a varied topography, the diversity of this parcel includes mesic upland forest, dry upland forest, former pastureland, bedrock ledges, a spring and a stream. The property is the southern section of Tarradiddle Mountain and is part of the Housatonic River Greenway.

**Town: East Haddam**

**Project Title: Sakolsky Property**

**Sponsor: East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.**

**Address: East of the Elementary School**

**Grant: \$17,550**

**Acreage: 19.52 acres**

This is the second parcel submitted under this program to develop a 100-acre interconnecting greenway, connecting resources within the Moodus Village. This property contains a wetland and associated habitat that drains into Wigwam Brook and then to Salmon River. It also contains an upland hardwood forest habitat.

**Town: Ellington**

**Project Title: Bellante Preserve**

**Sponsor: Northern Conn. Land Trust, Inc.**

**Address: Sandy Beach Road**

**Grant: \$36,000**

**Acreage: 35 acres**

This 35-acre undeveloped upland forest is located in the eastern panhandle off Rt. 140 (Tolland Tpke) in the Town of Ellington. The parcel abuts Erni Boothroyd Nature Preserve (NCLT), which is also in close proximity to Nye-Holman State Forest. Within a Conservation Corridor established by Capitol Region COG along the Willimantic River, the current owner has witnessed a plethora of wildlife including: turkey, fisher cats, coyotes, rabbits, various species of birds and bear.

**Town: Essex**

**Project Title: Doane Property**

**Sponsor: The Essex Land Trust, Inc.**

**Address: 10 Ox Bow Lane**

**Grant: \$166,950**

**Acreage: 18.54 acres**

The main purpose of this ridge property overlooking the Connecticut River is to connect or link three protected parcels: James Glen, and Doane's Woods (ELT) with Lyons Meadow (DRLT) for a total of a 50-acre greenway. The varied wildlife habitats include open field, upland forest, forested wetland and a beaver pond.

**Town: Hebron**

**Project Title: Calvin Fish Parcel**

**Sponsor: Town of Hebron**

**Address: In back of Gilead Hill Elementary School**

**Grant: \$102,000**

**Acreage: 48 acres**

This parcel, with a terminal boundary on Fawn Brook (950 feet), abuts Gilead Hill School (Rt. 85) and is part of a long term preservation effort to protect the Fawn Brook, a tributary to Salmon River. This undeveloped forested lot contains farmland that includes prime farmland soils, inland wetlands soils, access to a fishing opportunity that was not previously available and recreational/educational opportunity through the expansion of trails associated with Gilead Hill School.

**Town: Lyme**

**Project Title: Johnson Preserve**

**Sponsor: Town of Lyme**

**Address: 194 Norwich-Salem Road**

**Grant: \$870,000**

**Acreage: 250 acres**

Falling within the River to Ridge greenway, this acquisition has for decades been a priority for the Town to permanently protect. Located in north-central Lyme almost abutting East Haddam, this property has over a 1/2 mile of road frontage (Rt. 82) and abuts over 1,700 acres of protected open space. It has a rugged landscape with elevation from 200 to 465 feet above sea level. This parcel is in the Eightmile River watershed and is now designated by Audubon as an Important Bird Area.

**Town: Madison**

**Project Title: Luft Property**

**Sponsor: South Central Conn. Regional Water Authority**

**Address: 347 County Road**

**Grant: \$184,800**

**Acreage: 44 acres**

Located in Madison off Rt. 79 (Rockland), this undeveloped parcel (rear) contains 29 acres of Class I and 15 acres of Class II watershed land in the Hammonasset River Watershed. The acquisition is designed to eliminate the fragmentation of the watershed lands and improve protection of a drinking water supply.

**Town: Mansfield**

**Project Title: Simpson Family Property**

**Sponsor: Town of Mansfield**

**Address: 652 Warrenville Road**

**Grant: \$207,000**

**Acreage: 114 acres**

Located in the central eastern portion of the town on Warrenville Road, this parcel is characterized as an undeveloped woodlot with limited development potential based on soils, its stony nature, presences of wetlands and steep slopes. This property is located across the street from the Mt. Hope Property protected with the assistance of a grant from this program in 1999. A portion of this property is identified in the Natural Diversity Database. This is a large parcel with natural and archeological assets along with the potential to provide quality passive recreational and educational opportunities.

**Town: North Haven**

**Project Title: 182 Kings Highway**

**Sponsor: Town of North Haven**

**Address: 182 Kings Highway**

**Grant: \$200,250**

**Acreage: 29.55 acres**

Existing between Kings Highway and Hartford Turnpike in the northwest quadrant of the town, this 29.55-acre parcel is sandwiched among residential house lots. A former orchard, the lot contains 6.9 acres of land that can be classified wetland, intermittent watercourses and a vernal pool. The property does slope from the northwest to the southeast from 56 to over 500 feet ASL. The parcel is undeveloped with only remnants of the former farm existing.

**Town: North Stonington**

**Project Title: Green Falls River Glen**

**Sponsor: Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.**

**Address: 119 Puttker Road**

**Grant: \$195,000**

**Acreage: 86.5 acres**

With over a half-mile of river frontage on the Green Falls River, this property is located off Puttker Road in northeastern portion of North Stonington, 1/2 mile from Pachaug State Forest. This river is stocked by DEEP. The property is composed of 33 acres of wetland, vernal pools, prime farmland soils and home to a historic woolen mill area, and is part of an Aquifer Protection Area of the Pawcatuck River basin.

**Town: North Stonington, Griswold and Preston**

**Project Title: Tri-Town Ridgeline Forest**

**Sponsor: Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.**

**Address: 85 Miller Road**

**Grant: \$555,000**

**Acreage: 409 acres**

This property is located in the towns of North Stonington, Griswold and Preston. The parcels link about 1,400 acres of protected land owned by Avalonia (76 ac.), The Nature Conservancy (Cons. Easement), State DEEP (Pachaug State Forest, 213 ac.), and conservation restricted land held by the Town of North Stonington (133 ac.). This property is an unfragmented forest (currently under PA490, chestnut oak upland forest), with over 4 miles of trails (stone-walled), 100-foot cliffs, three mountains (240' to 506' ASL, Lambert Mountain), and with vast and varied wildlife habitat.

**Town: Old Lyme**

**Project Title: Denison Parcel**

**Sponsor: Old Lyme Land Trust, Inc.**

**Address: Short Hills Road**

**Grant: \$36,113**

**Acreage: 10.7 acres**

Located in Old Lyme central and very close to the East Lyme Town line, this forested parcel would accomplish three major objectives: 1) contribute toward protecting an important watershed (Three Mile River), 2) enlarge an area of protected open space, and 3) expand upon a growing and valuable recreational resource.

**Town: Preston**

**Project Title: Kendall/Thoma Preserve**

**Sponsor: Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.**

**Address: 16 Rude Road**

**Grant: \$195,750**

**Acreage: 177 acres**

Located in northeastern Preston, this property is primarily an undeveloped forested lot (currently in PA490) transected by Rattlesnake Brook, Folly Works Brook and Broad Brook. The property contains wide and diverse habitats including open fields (still being hayed), shrub swamp, red maple swamp, riparian and upland woodland and a sand barren.

**Town: Sherman**

**Project Title: Eastman Parcel**

**Sponsor: Naromi Land Trust, Inc.**

**Address: Off Evans Hill Road**

**Grant: \$76,500**

**Acreage: 37.83 acres**

Located in northern Sherman south of Ten Mile River, this undeveloped forested property abuts land currently protected by Naromi Land Trust (142 ac.) and Federal Land associated with the Appalachian Trail (255 ac.). The property is a mix of hardwood/hemlock forest, steep slopes, stone walls, wooded wetland (3 ac.), vernal pool, rock outcroppings, and vistas of the Housatonic River.

**Town: Sprague**

**Project Title: Tenenbaum - Morehouse**

**Sponsor: Town of Sprague**

**Address: 269 Scotland Road**

**Grant: \$96,600**

**Acreage: 28.9 acres**

Located off Scotland Road (Rt. 97) in Sprague, the property is principally a forested wood lot with some open fields that are being used for silage (listed as 13ac. farmland), wetlands, swamp grasses, and two ponds for irrigation. The property is bisected by a rail line leaving a small section of the property (1.9 ac.) separated from the main parcel but having frontage on the Shetucket River. This parcel also abuts State DEEP land to the north.

**Town: Sprague, Franklin**  
**Project Title: Peltier Property**  
**Sponsor: Town of Sprague**  
**Address: 154 Holton Road**  
**Grant: \$158,200**  
**Acreage: 51.40 acres**

This property will become part of the Sprague Land Preserve, which is located in both Sprague and Franklin and totals over 330 acres of open space that has received three grants under this program (includes the Mukluk Property). Acquisition of this parcel would secure the main access to this preserve off Holton Road in Franklin. It is an undeveloped forested woodlot with 7% wetland, mapped farmland soils and about 25% steeply sloping.

**Town: Stratford**  
**Project Title: Roosevelt Forest**  
**Sponsor: Town of Stratford**  
**Address: 225 Peters Lane**  
**Grant: \$261,240**  
**Acreage: 19 acres**

This proposal is the acquisition of two separate parcels (15 ac. and 3.9 ac.), both to be acquired by the Town of Stratford and added to Roosevelt Forest (approx. 400 ac.). The property is located in the Town of Stratford and in the City of Shelton. Both properties are undeveloped upland woodlots with some associated wetland and the typical New England forest wildlife habitat.

**Town: Thompson**  
**Project Title: Bull Hill**  
**Sponsor: Wyndham Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Address: 57 Bull Hill Road, N. Grosvenor Dale Road, and 120 Bull Hill Road, Woodstock**  
**Grant: \$172,500**  
**Acreage: 254 acres**

The 254 acres of this proposal is part of a 3,000 acre undeveloped forest located in the towns of Thompson and Woodstock. It is principally an inholding with the best access being Bull Hill Road. The property has developed trails, with areas undergoing timber harvesting and other areas of the forest being regenerating. About 1/2 of this property is within the Little River Watershed and is close to the Army Corp of Engineer's West Thompson Dam.

**Town: Washington**  
**Project Title: Johnson Farm**  
**Sponsor: Steep Rock Association, Inc.**  
**Address: 63 West Mountain Road**  
**Grant: \$886,500**  
**Acreage: 50.53 acres**

Johnson Farm is located in the southeastern part of Washington. It is composed of 38 acres of farmland (hayfields), 12 acres of forest land, and 10 acres of wetland, which drain to Sprain Brook. The fields will continue to be hayed, thus protecting a grassland habitat. While not directly abutting West Mountain Preserve (Steep Rock), it is only a 300 yard walk, which combined with the 0.8 mile of possible trail on the Farm provides recreational and educational opportunities.

**Town: Watertown**

**Project Title: Franson Farmland**

**Sponsor: Watertown Land Trust, Inc.**

**Address: 381 Plungis Road**

**Grant: \$119,250**

**Acreage: 26.3 acres**

Located in north central Watertown, this property is principally characterized as being 50% wetland (Peck's Swamp) that drains into Waterbury's Wigwam Reservoir, and provides excellent habitat for amphibians, birds and water dependent mammals. The other half of the property is a meadow, which is currently being hayed (16% prime agricultural soils). This property is abutting a 300-acre farm currently being considered by the Department of Agriculture for preservation.

**Town: Weston**

**Project Title: Belknap Property**

**Sponsor: Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc.**

**Address: Wampum Hill Road**

**Grant: \$165,497**

**Acreage: 38.35 acres**

This project is the acquisition, in-fee, of 27.85 acres and the purchase of an easement over 10.5 acres of an undeveloped interior woodland. The parcel is adjacent to Aspetuck's 81-acre Honey Hill Preserve and is part of a greenway of 2,600 acres of land owned by Wilton Land Conservation Trust, Aspetuck, The Nature Conservancy and the Towns of Wilton and Weston. The proposal serves to create trail linkages and enhance habitat preservation.

**Town: Windsor**

**Project Title: Mill Brook Open Space**

**Sponsor: Town of Windsor**

**Address: 100 Pigeon Hill Road**

**Grant: \$1,086,000**

**Acreage: 94 acres**

This parcel was previously a privately-operated golf course and is currently undergoing reclamation into a varied mix of wet and upland meadow with high grass and low shrubs along with an early successional forest. The parcel lends itself for development and linkages for passive recreation areas and trails. Located off Pigeon Hill Road in Windsor, the parcel is part of the Mill Brook Greenway (4,000 feet of Mill Brook) corridor and connects with Fitch Park, less than a 1/2 mile from downtown Windsor.