

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

January 2020

Overview

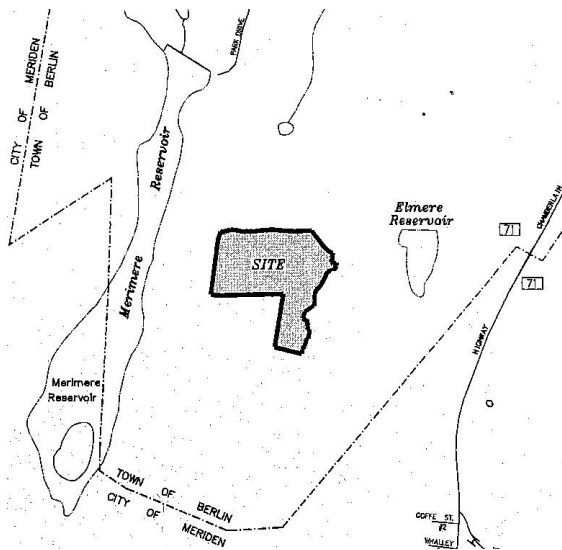
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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. The following Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant closed in January 2020. Additional information on the project follows.

| Sponsor | Project | Town | Acres Protected |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| City of Meriden | Rogoz Property | Berlin | 21.7 Ac. |

City of Meriden
Rogoz Property, Berlin
21.7+/- acres - fee acquisition



This 21.7 acre property is classified as Class II Watershed land. This acquisition protects feeder streams and prevents encroachment of surrounding watershed properties. It will protect the Elmore and Merimere Reservoirs to the east and west.

The property is primarily forested with a varied topography. 45% of the property is steep or influenced by wetland. An unnamed stream runs from this property into Pine Brook and Bladens River.

Nearby trails will allow the public to access the property but the main purpose of this acquisition, is to protect the watershed properties nearby with the property being preserved in its scenic, natural state.

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 closed in January 2020. Additional information on this/these project(s) follows.

| Property Name | Town(s) | Cooperators & Cost Share | State Share | Acres Protected | Purpose of Acquisition |
|---------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Baxter | Willington | \$51,000* | N/A | 31.29 | Addition to Kollar WMA |

* appraised value of donated parcel

Baxter Property, Willington 31.29 acres - fee acquisition

The Baxter property was generously donated to the DEEP by William & Patricia Baxter and the Goeller Trust. The wooded property located along the Willimantic River provides additional fishing and passive recreation opportunities and helps protect the watershed.

