

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

March 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 (OSWA) established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program (RNHTP) 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 March 2020.

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 March 2020. Additional information on this project follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Motherway	North Stonington	George Dudley Seymour Trust \$200,000	\$0	25.06	Addition to Pachaug S.F.

Motherway Property
25.06 Acres – Fee Acquisition
North Stonington



The property consists of a slightly irregular shaped parcel of land located along the southeasterly side of Cossaduck Hill Road. Pachaug State Forest abuts the property on the east, and land owned by The Nature Conservancy abuts the property on the west. The land consists mostly of hardwood forest with gentle to moderately sloped topography, with a steep slope near the southern boundary. The blue-blazed Narragansett Trail bisects a portion of the land near the southern property line.

This acquisition was made possible with funding from the George Dudley Seymour Trust and will be made open to the public for passive recreation. Other benefits include protecting the blue-blazed trail and enhancing a protected greenway by connecting two previously isolated properties.