

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

September 2020

Overview

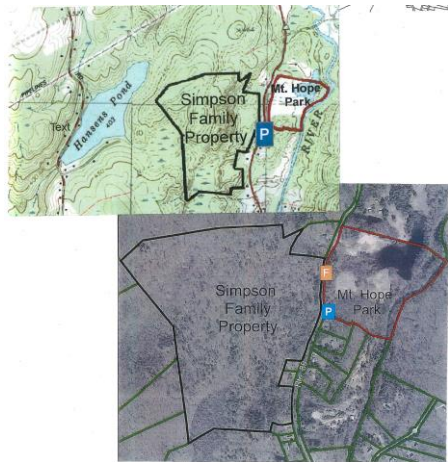
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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 September 2020.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Town of Mansfield	Simpson Family Property	Mansfield	114.65

**Town of Mansfield
Simpson Family Property
Fee Purchase 114.65 Acres**



The Town's acquisition of this property on Warrenville Road will expand upon an existing area of permanently preserved open space by adding 114+ acres directly across from the Town-owned 35+ acre Mt. Hope Park purchased in 1999 with DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant funds. This is part of a larger effort by the Town to preserve the highlands that form an interior north/south forest and wildlife corridor extending over two miles from Mt. Hope Road to Mulberry Road. The property contains several stone features that are significant Native American ceremonial stone structures identified by a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Mohegan Tribe. This property will provide quality passive recreational uses and educational outlets.

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 closings in September 2020.