

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

**April 2021**

### **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.

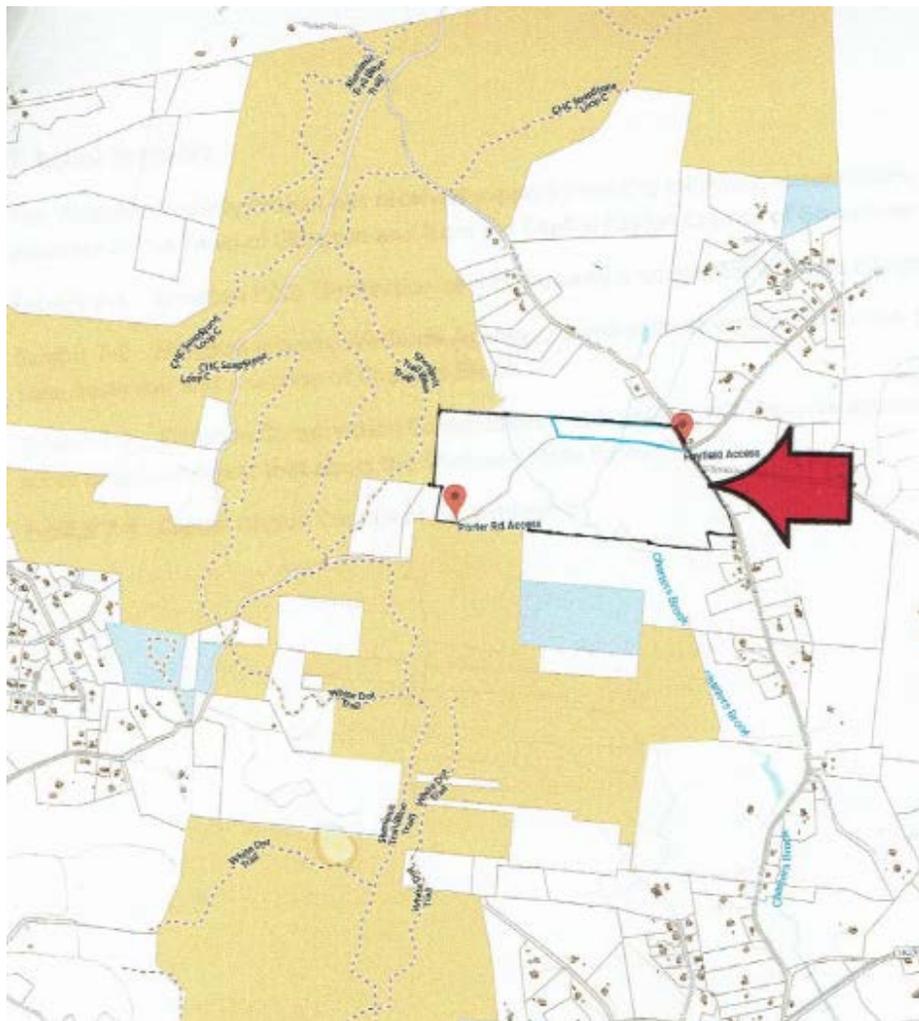
### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

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.

One Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant was funded in April 2021. Additional information on the project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc.	Wraight Property	Ellington	116.434

**Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc. (NCLT)**  
**Wright Property, Ellington**  
**116.434 Acres – Fee Acquisition**



This mainly forested property includes 3.7 acres of hayfields and a small pond. Charters Brook runs north to south through the center of the parcel. A large wetland surrounds the brook and provides a significant source of water to the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir, which supplies drinking water to the surrounding towns. NCLT will clear the discontinued and abandoned section of Porter Road, enabling the public to hike from Webster road through the property to the Shenipsit State Forest, which abuts this property to the west containing the Shenipsit Trail. This property will complement existing open space, provide a source of recreation, protect wildlife habitat, a stream and important water supply and preserve an existing agricultural use.

## 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.

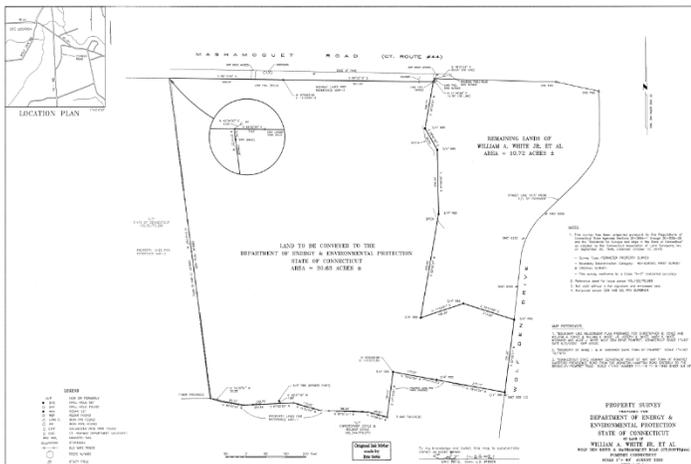
One acquisition closed in April 2021. Additional information on this project follows.

	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
White Property	Pomfret	None	\$200,000	30.63	Addition to Mashamoquet Brook State Park

### White Property

#### 30.63 Acre – Fee Acquisition

#### Wolf Den Drive, Pomfret



The White property consists of 30.63 acres that were part of a larger 51.3 acre parcel at 6 Wolf Den Drive, Pomfret. The property consists of a mixture of fields and forest and is being added to the Mashamoquet Brook State Park. It was historically associated with a dairy farm, and most recently the fields have been used for growing hay.

The acquisition will enlarge the popular park, provide habitat for wildlife that depend on open fields and field edges, and expand passive recreational uses including hiking and bird watching.