

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

February 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.

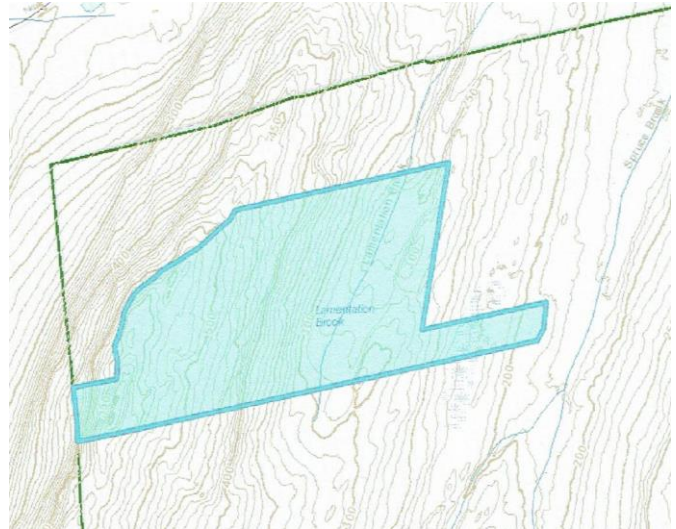
Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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 February 2021. Additional information on the project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Berlin Land Trust, Inc.	Lamentation Mountain	Middletown	46.56

Berlin Land Trust, Inc.
Lamentation Mountain, Middletown
Fee Acquisition – 46.56 Acres



This parcel, at the northern end of Lamentation Mountain, is part of the Metacomet Ridge, which extends from Long Island Sound to the Vermont border. This property contains five critical habitats, three basalt ridges and provides easy access to the Connecticut Blue Blazed Trail System, managed by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) which describes this parcel as “perhaps the most scenic traprock ridge walk in the state”. CFPA will blaze and maintain the trails on this property. This is the last unprotected parcel in the Lamentation Mountain ecosystem consisting of 450+/- land trust or municipally owned acres, 190+/- privately-owned & undeveloped acres, and it protects the Lamentation Brook and the northern flowing Spruce Brook watersheds.

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 closed in February 2021.