



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

July 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 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

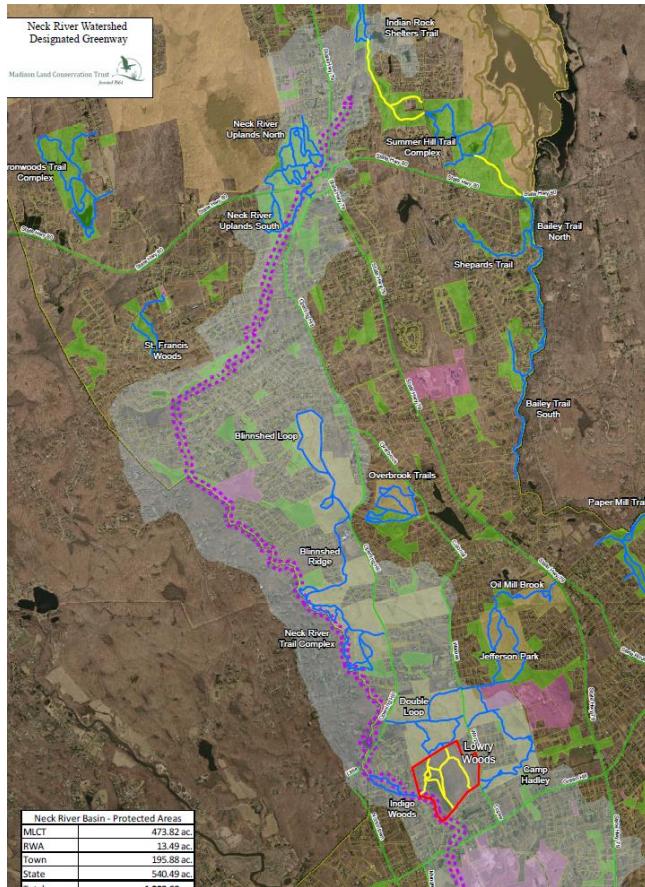
The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut 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 property was funded with Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Funds in July 2021.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Madison Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Lowry Woods Property	Madison	78.8328

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 July 2021.

Madison Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (MLCT)
Lowry Woods Property, Madison
78.8328 Acre – Fee Acquisition



This 78 acre woodland purchase was a rare opportunity to protect open space in the Neck River watershed corridor. The property is located on Warpas Road in western Madison, just north of the Daniel Hand High School. Neck River runs along the western side of the parcel. This property abuts other lands owned by MLCT and the Cockaponset State Forest abuts the property to the north. This acquisition provides protection to several water-based wildlife habitats, ensures high water quality and contributes to a recognized greenway. This area contains a concentrated network of hiking trails and many opportunities for passive recreation. The conservation of this land is important to the long-term health of the river, ground water and ultimately, Long Island Sound.