

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

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

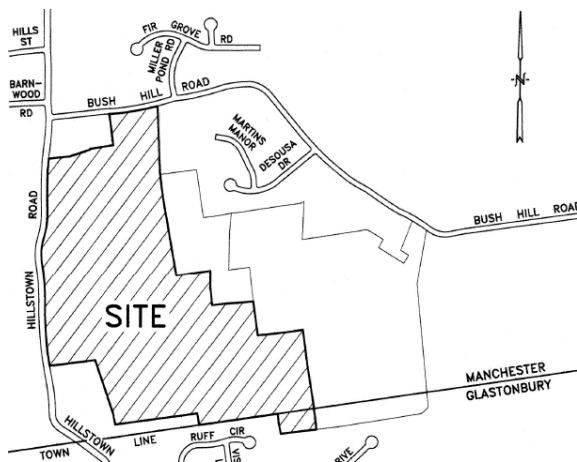
Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Lombardo Farm Property	Manchester & Glastonbury	102.096 Ac.

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 January 2021.

Manchester Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (MLCT)
Lobardo Farm Property, Manchester & Glastonbury
102.096+/- acres - fee acquisition



This 102+ acre, former farm was the last large open space property available in the Town of Manchester. It will be accessible from Hillstown Road with trails connecting to and expanding upon MLCT's Bush Hill Preserve to the east. Botti Farm (part of the Bush Hill Preserve) was also purchased with an OSHA grant in 2016. Hikers, bikers, cross-country skiers, bird watchers and nature lovers can now enjoy this 177+ acre preserve with ponds, meadows, trees and trails, providing clean air, clean water, and habitat for plants, animals and migrating birds. A mature forest and a small spring-fed pond provide wildlife habitat. This property is easily accessible to residents in Manchester, East Hartford and Glastonbury. The Town of Manchester also provided funding assistance for this purchase.

Other DEEP June 2021 Open Space Preservation

The State of CT DEEP awarded a grant of \$1,000,000.00 to the Town of Glastonbury toward the purchase and preservation of 542+/- acres of land formerly owned by the Metropolitan District. The State Bond Commission funded this grant pursuant to Public Act 2016-4, Section 9(b).

