



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

November 2022

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.

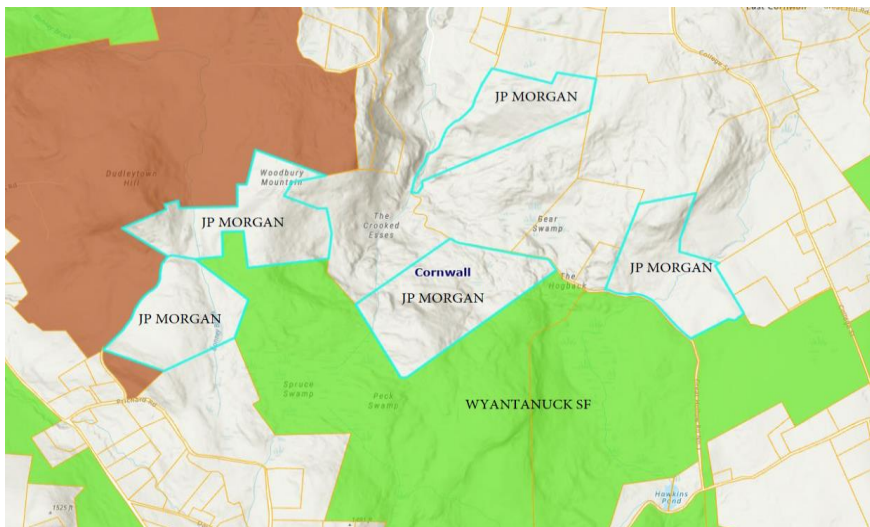
There were no Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grants funded in November 2022.

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 Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program project closed in November 2022. Additional information follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
JP Morgan Chase	Cornwall	USFWS Highlands \$575,500 Private funds \$174,500	\$0	374.98	Addition to Wyantanuck State Forest

J.P. Morgan Chase 374.98 Acres – Fee Acquisition Cornwall, CT



The J.P. Morgan Chase properties consist of the remaining five parcels that were part of a larger project in which DEEP acquired a total of 536 acres in Cornwall. The property is in a rural residential section of town, bordered by large tracts of undeveloped land. The property is mostly forested and are characterized by steep slopes and high mountaintops that drain into various streams that feed into low lying swamps and river corridors that extend between the hills. The lands will be added to the Wyantanuck State Forest and provide enhanced access for passive recreational uses. Funding was provided by a Highlands Conservation Act grant administered by the USFWS along with private donations.