

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

October 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.

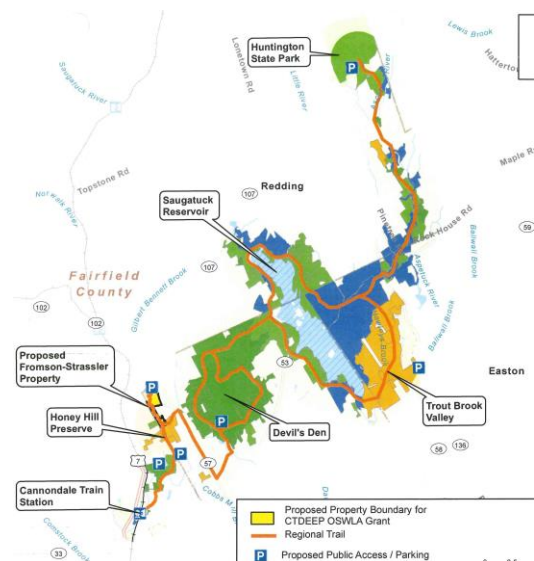
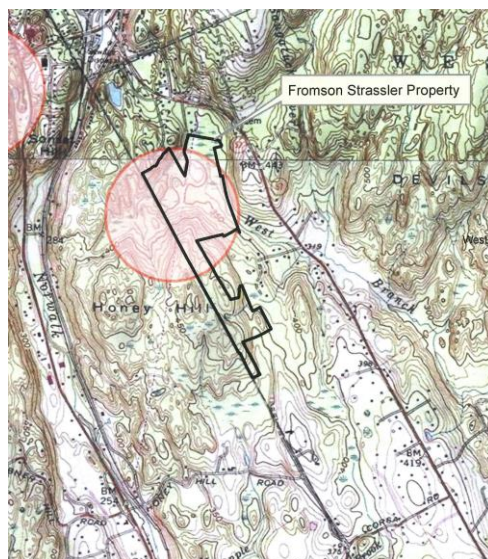
There was one Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant funded in October 2022. Additional information about the project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc.	Fromson Strassler Property	Weston	85.879

Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc. (ALT)
Fromson Strassler Property, Weston
Fee Acquisition – 85.879 Acres



This property is adjacent to ALT's 118-acre Honey Hill Preserve. The site is part of a 706-acre assemblage project (the Weston/Wilton Forest Block). There are 5 inland wetlands on this property covering 22 acres. The wetlands on the northern end of the property form the headwaters of the West branch of the Saugatuck River. The American Eel, Chain Pickerel and Black-nosed dace have been collected in the West branch. Migratory bird species and amphibians inhabit the site. A trail head and parking area at the end of Upper Parish Drive will create a link to the area's regional trail system providing access to passive recreational opportunities such as hiking, birding, nature interpretation and photography.



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 October 2022.