

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

**September 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 September 2022.

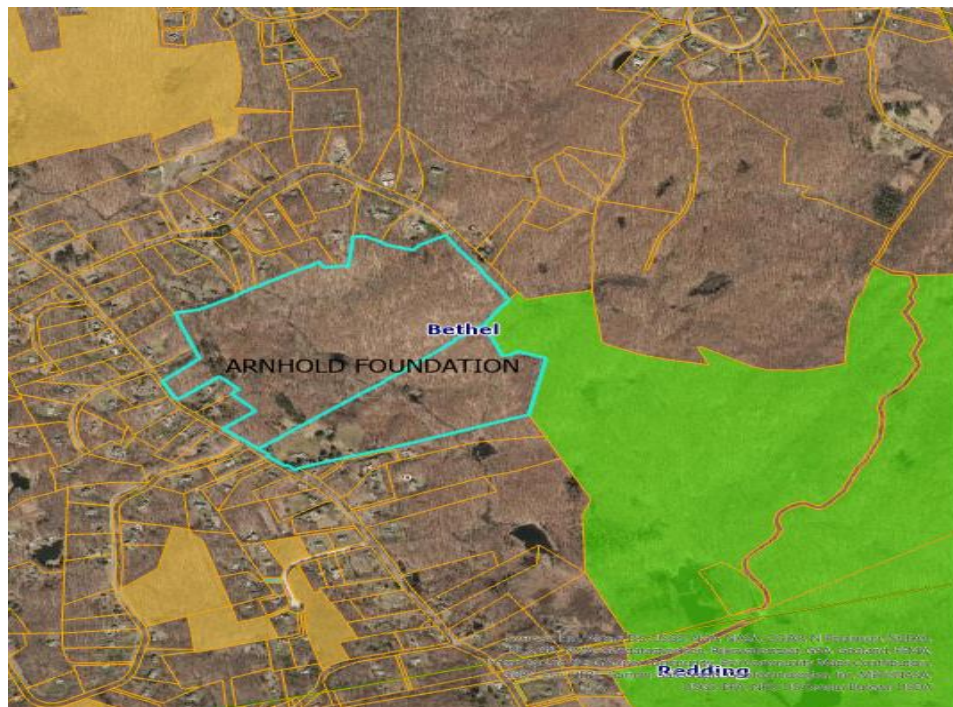
### **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

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.

There was one Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program closing in September 2022. Additional information about the project follows:

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Cooperators &amp; Cost Share</b>	<b>State Share</b>	<b>Acres Protected</b>	<b>Purpose of Acquisition</b>
Arnhold Foundation, Inc.	Bethel	None	\$0 Donation	79.35	Addition to Colis P. Huntington State Park

## 79.35 Acres – Fee Donation



The Arnhold Foundation, Inc. generously donated 79.35 acres of open space to add on to the Colis P. Huntington State Park. This spectacular property features rolling hills that are heavily wooded and contain stone walls, wetlands and logging roads that will naturally extend the park for the enjoyment of the public. It is expected this land will make an immediate positive, public impact. The potential additional passive recreation opportunities are boundless with hiking, biking, bird watching, as well as some winter recreation such as snowshoeing.