



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

**April 2023**

### 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

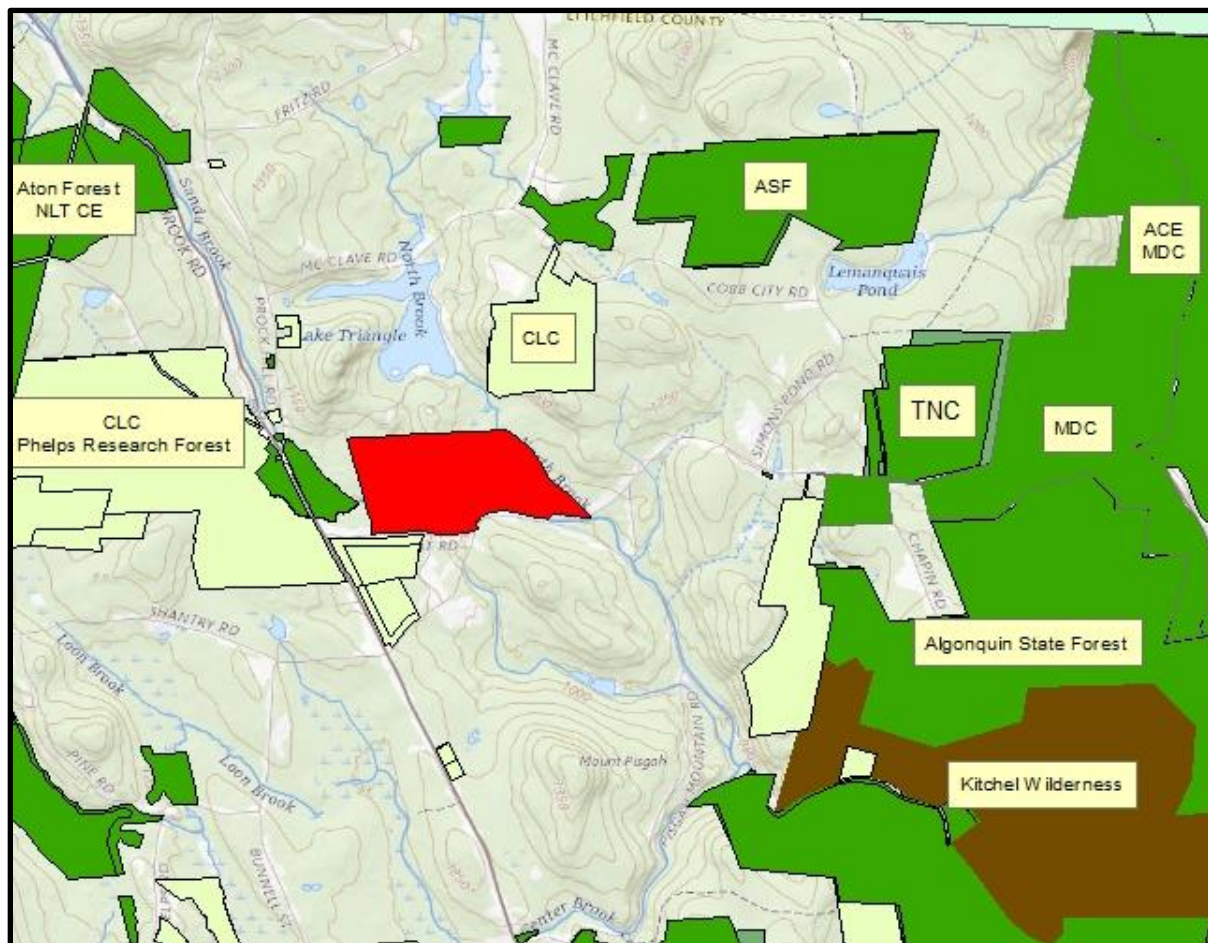
The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut 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 Program grant funded in April 2023. Additional information on the project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Colebrook Land Conservancy, Inc.	Sandy Brook Forest Preserve	Colebrook	140.7

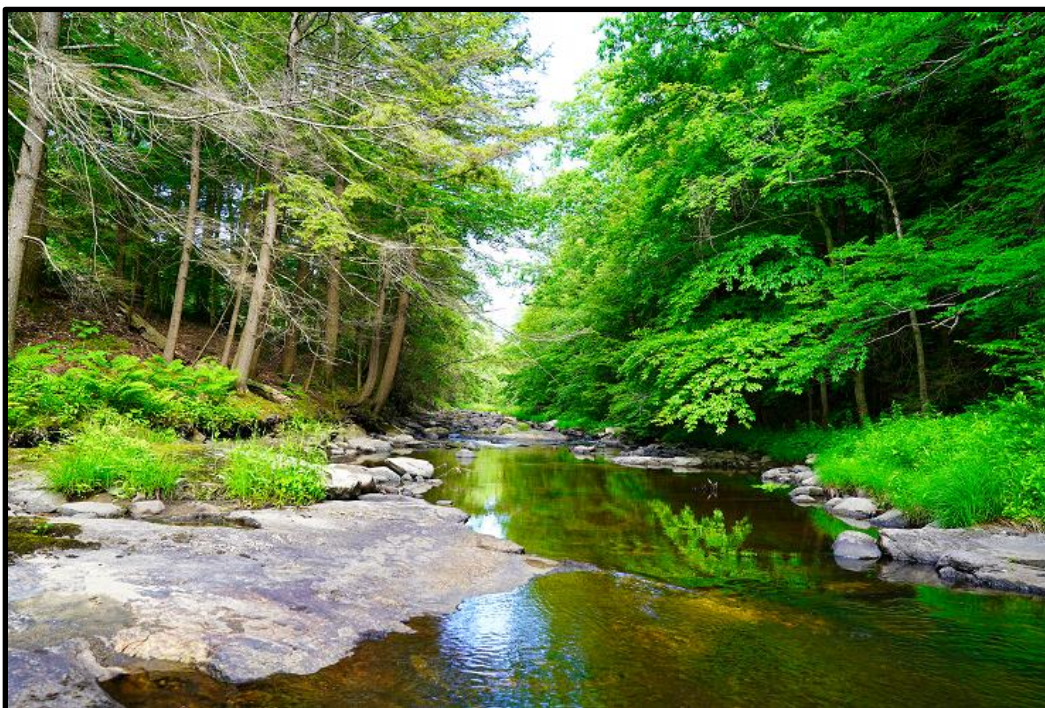
**Colebrook Land Conservancy, Inc. (CLC)**  
**Sandy Brook Forest Preserve, Colebrook**  
**140.7 Acres**

This property is situated on Phelps Flat and Beech Hill Roads in Colebrook. Most of the 140.7-acre property is core forest and part of a regional forest block that includes Algonquin State Forest, Colebrook Land Conservancy's Phelps Research Area, Aton Forest, and Sandisfield State Forest. Sandy Brook (3,780 linear feet) and North Brook (2,749 linear feet) flow through the property creating 60 acres of riparian habitat before flowing into the Farmington River. The CT NDDDB found six rare State-listed species of animals and plants on or near the site including jefferson salamander, red bat, slimy sculpin, Eastern pearl shell mussel, early coral root, and skunk currant. Property features include forested swamps, lands adjacent to freshwater wetlands, and riparian lands adjacent to cold water streams, which rank the property highly in climate resiliency.

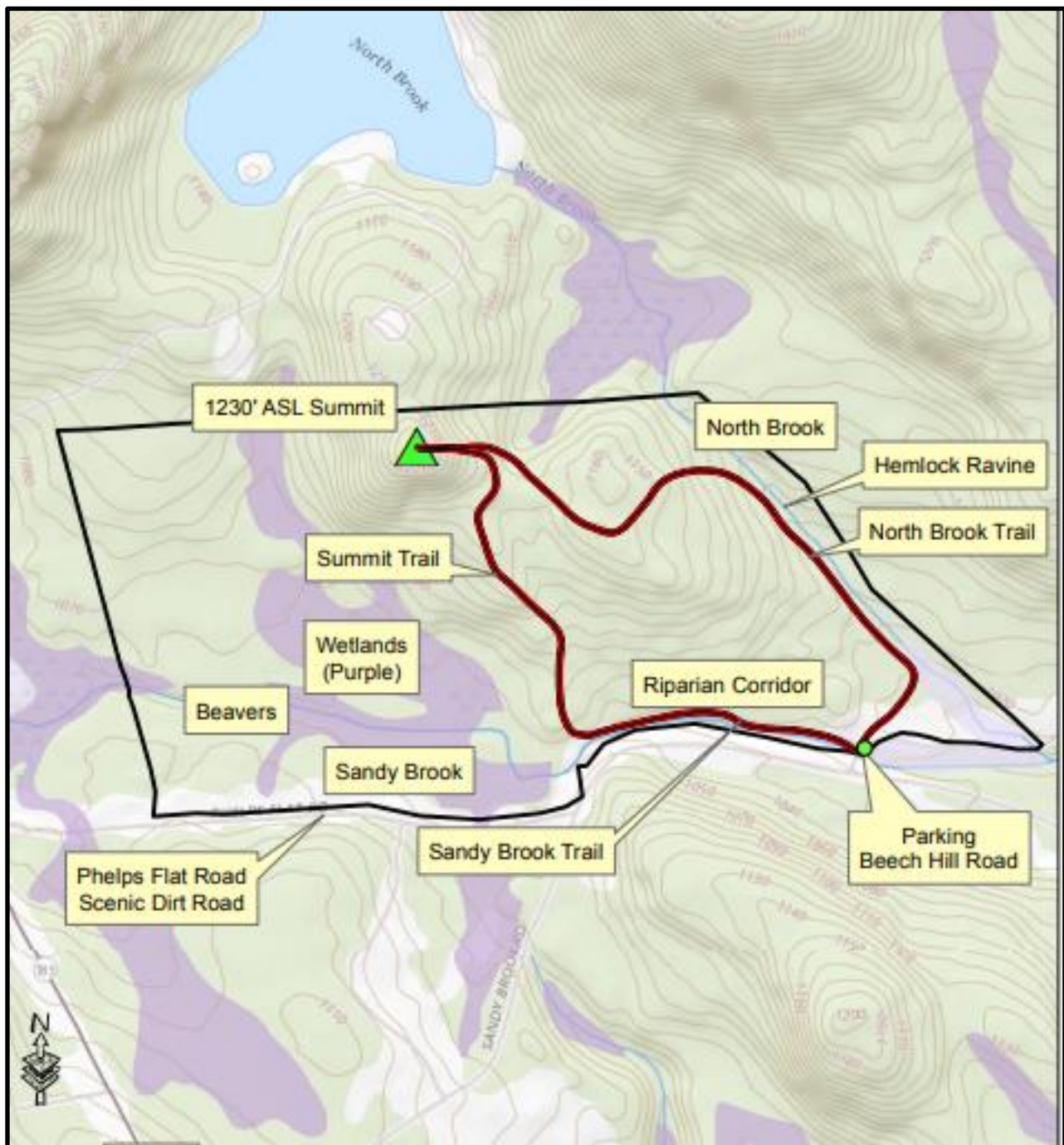
This project received additional funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to a Highlands Conservation Act Grant.











## 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 April 2023. Additional information about this project follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Stevenson	Stafford	None	\$515,000	3.47	Addition to Bradway Pond Flood Control

**Stevenson property**  
**10A Bradway Pond Rd, Stafford**  
**3.47 Acres – Fee Purchase**  
**Bradway Pond Flood Control Property**

The Stevenson property consists of 3.47 acres improved with a house that was demolished by the sellers. The acquisition resolved an issue with a dam on the property that affected DEEP's Bradway Pond Flood Control system. The DEEP is now able to regain floodwater storage capacity and gain better access to the abutting state flood control property.



