



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

**March 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.

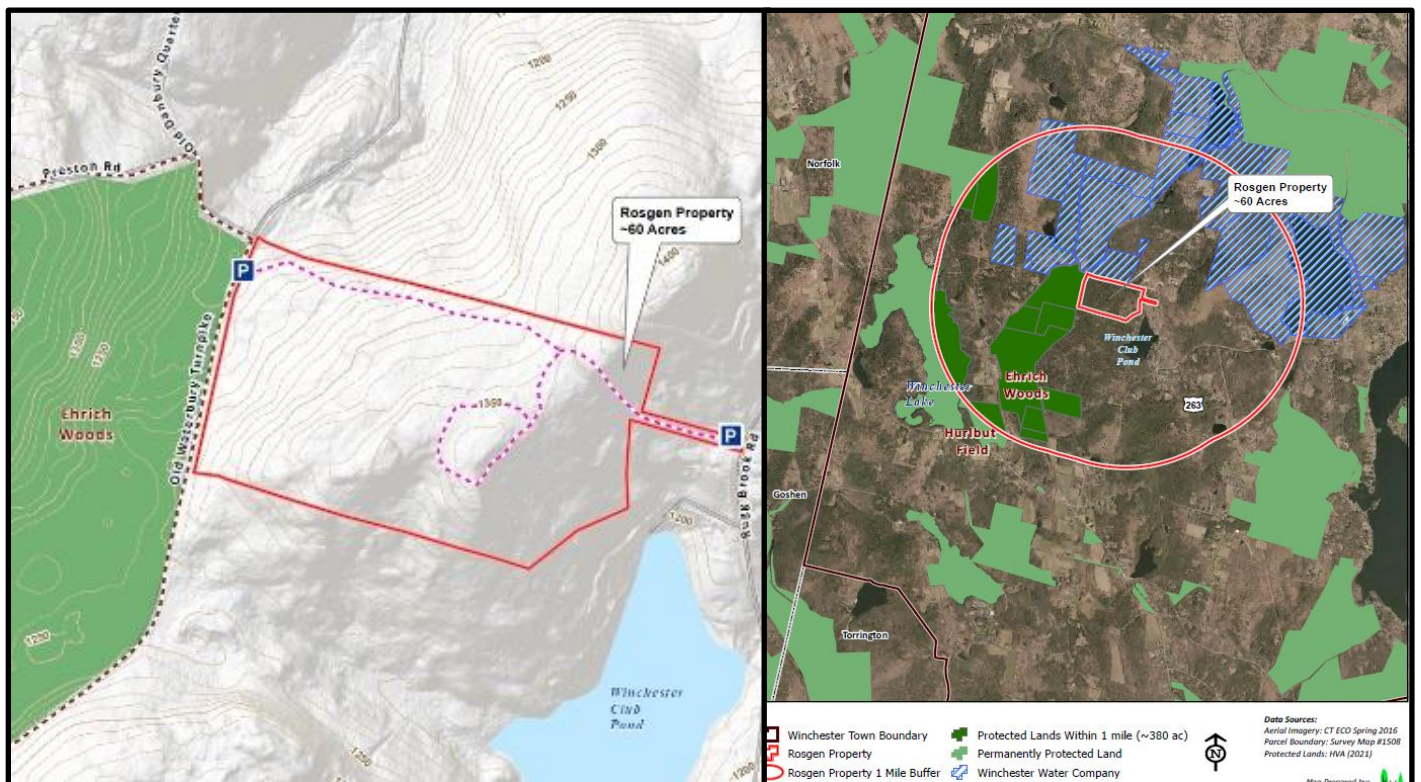
### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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 were three Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grants funded in March 2023. Additional information on the projects follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Winchester Land Trust, Inc.	Rosgen Property	Winchester	59.227
Killingworth Land Conservation Trust	Greer-Duffy Property	Killingworth	24.01
Town of Willington	Talmadge Estate	Willington	16.43

**Winchester Land Trust, Inc. (WLT)**  
**Rosgen Property, Winchester**  
**59.227 Acres**

This property with frontage on Rugg Brook Road and Old Waterbury Tpke (a seasonally accessible, abandoned road) is almost entirely core forest, featuring wetlands, a diversity of terrain and a brook under a mixed hardwood and softwood canopy. It links extensive protected areas and town drinking water lands. There are stone walls, a range of elevations and high-quality habitats utilized by a wide variety of wildlife. The property abuts Winchester Water Company's 1300+/- acres to the north and WLT 350+/- acres to the east. Rugg Brook flows through the property feeding the Town's drinking water reservoirs. It is an excellent habitat for fish, amphibians and turtles and is a nice, accessible spot for fishing. Five State-listed species have been documented on or near the property including the Federally Threatened Northern long-eared bat. This property will expand upon the existing Ames Open Space hiking trails, which are well used by the public, with recently added wildlife observation areas, benches and signs.





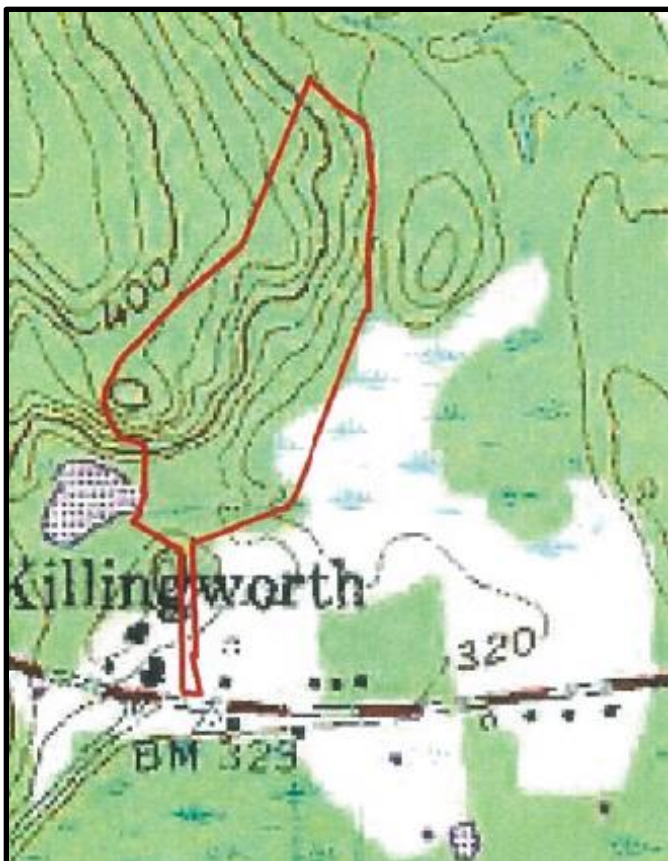
**Killingworth Land Conservation Trust (KLCT)**  
**Greer-Duffy Property, Killingworth**  
**24.01 Acres**

This property, known as Lot 34a on Route 80, lies between three already preserved KLCT properties, highlighted yellow in the map below. Winkell's Pond Preserve, to the east, contains an extremely healthy

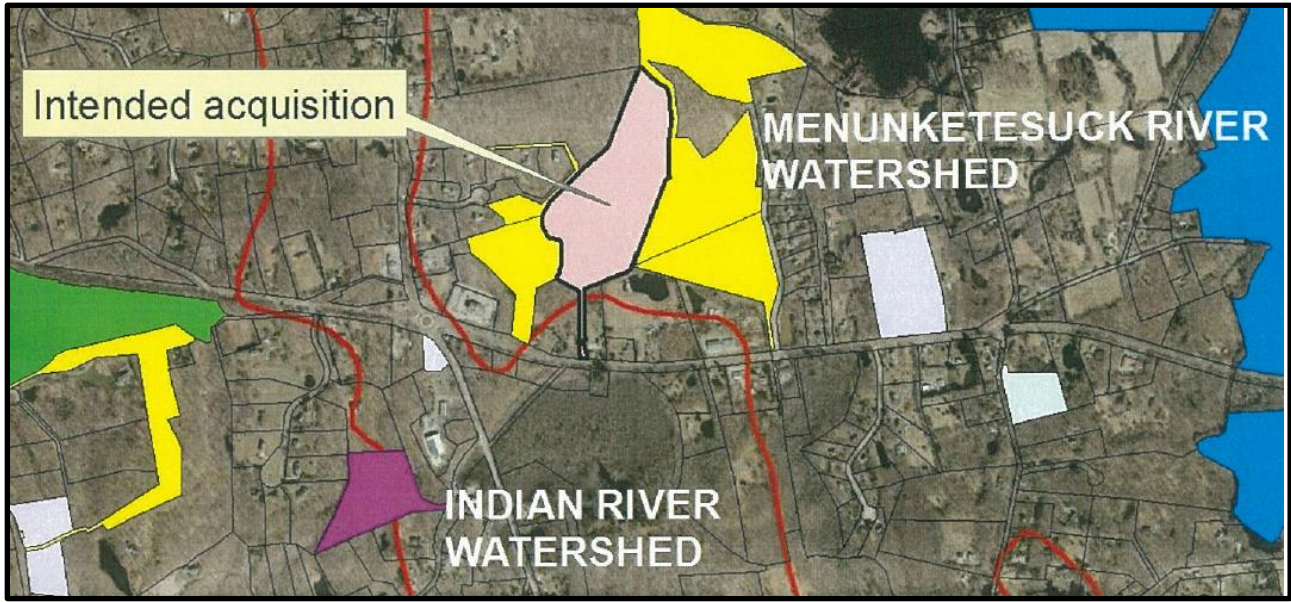


wetland/pond system and a rookery with Great Blue Herons. The property to the west contains the Winkel Pond (loop) Trail. KLCT will add a trail on this property and a parking area to complement the existing trail. The northwest side of the property is a forested, ledgey upland habitat. The parcel is wooded and has an upward slope from east to west, affording excellent views for bird watching in the marsh. A bird watching platform

for wildlife observation, is planned adjacent to the pond. This purchase will protect the forest land that filters water flowing off this property into the adjacent marsh and wetland system and the Menunketesuck River Watershed. There are scattered stone walls, logging trails and areas of ledge/rock and extremely healthy wetland systems, teeming with fish and wildlife, presumably numerous reptile and amphibian species.







**Town of Willington**  
**Talmadge Estate**  
**16.43 Acres**

This forested parcel has frontage on Mason Road in southeastern Willington. It is southerly of the 28-acre Daniel W. Talmadge Conservation Tract, purchased by the Town with OSHA funds in 2005, westerly of the

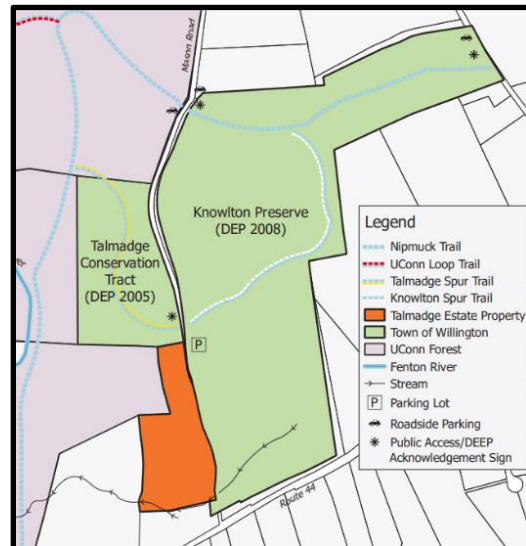


138-acre Royal Knowlton Preserve, purchased by the Town with OSHA funds in 2008, and southeasterly of the 420-acre UCONN Forest Block. Adding this parcel to the adjacent protected core forest expands it to 602+ acres. The parcel contains forested wetland areas which drain toward a small, unnamed stream flowing through the southern boundary. The parcel is close to the Fenton River public water supply watershed and Cold Water Supporting Drainage Basin. Approx. 75% of the parcel is within the Aquifer Protection area which recharges the Fenton River and UCONN's wellfields. The Fenton River is regionally important as a fishery, designated as a Class 3 Wild Trout Management Area. Protecting this parcel helps maintain forest cover, reduces stormwater runoff in the Watershed & Aquifer Protection Area, supports

local and regional surface and ground water quality goals for public water supply protection and maintains the health of the fishery. The Town will add a public access trail on Mason Road (next to the parking lot), leading southerly to the parcel's hilltop vista with exposed bedrock and views of the wetland and forest below, and northerly to the Talmadge Spur Trail and Nipmuck Trail. Two State-listed species, Wood turtle and Spotted turtle, have been documented nearby. It is



possible that the turtles use the Fenton River corridor, wetland areas, vernal pool and upland forest on this property.



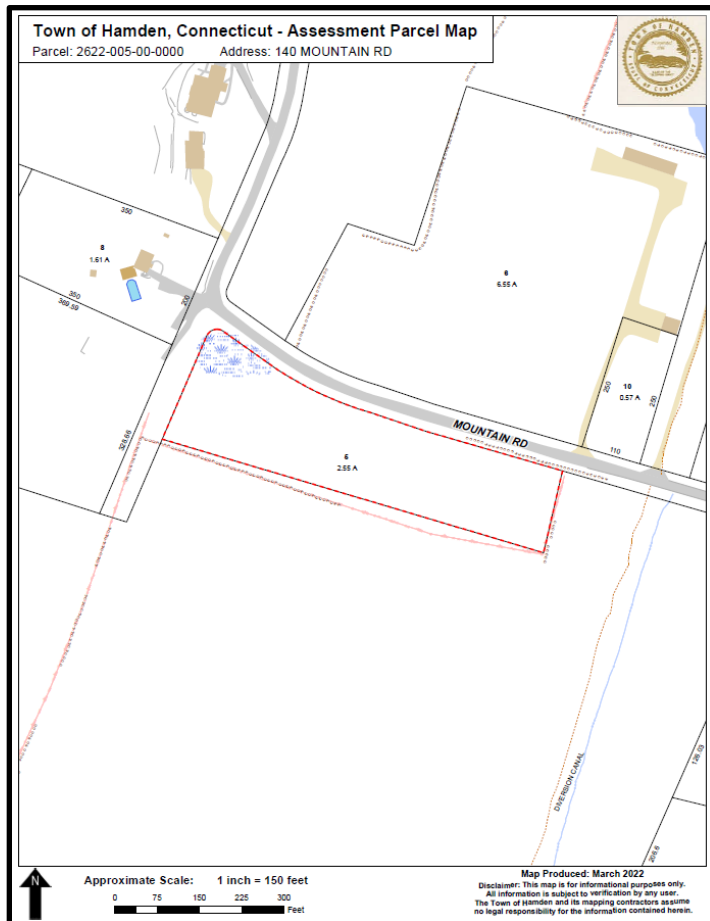
### Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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 three Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program closings March 2023. Additional information on the projects follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Klein	Hamden	George Dudley Seymour Trust - \$78,000	\$0	3.28	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park
Estate of John Barrio Jr.	Union	None	\$200,000	51.36	Addition to Nipmuck State Forest
Raccio	Hamden	None	\$90,000	3.24	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park

**Klein property**  
**140 Mountain Rd, Hamden**  
**3.28 Acres – Fee Purchase**  
**West Rock Ridge State Park**

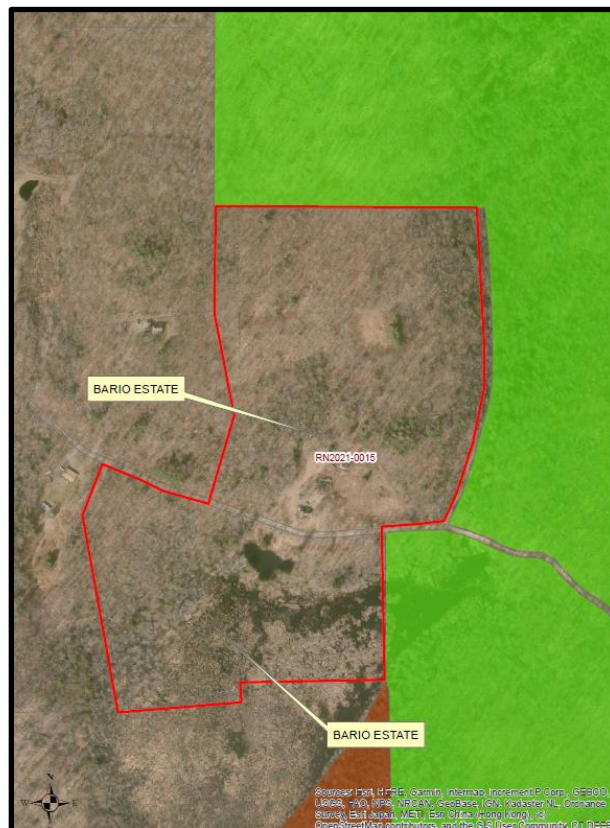
The Klein property is a generally rectangular shaped parcel located on the southern side of Mountain Road. The land is mainly level and wooded and was purchased with funding through the George Dudley Seymour Trust. Surrounded by State land, the acquisition helps expand West Rock Ridge State Park and prevent future development.





A photograph showing a wide, open field with green grass and some patches of brown, possibly dead vegetation. In the background, there is a dense line of trees, including evergreens and deciduous trees without leaves. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The image is framed by a black border.

northern parcel and actively managed the property for wildlife purposes and forest management including maple sugaring. The southern parcel features an open swamp, vernal pools, and mature forest. Numerous wildlife have been seen on the property in recent years including deer, turkey, woodcock, grouse, beaver, fisher cats, mink, otter, bobcat and bear. The house on the property has been removed, and the land will be added to the abutting Nipmuck State Forest. Per the wishes of Mr. Bario's will, the entire proceeds from the sale are being donated to Ducks Unlimited.



**Raccio property**  
**574 West Shepard Ave (Rear), Hamden**  
**3.24 Acres – Fee Purchase**  
**West Rock Ridge State Park**

The Raccio property is located at the northern end of West Rock Ridge State Park. Surrounded on all sides by the park, it contained a long vacant home and barn which were in poor condition. The structures will be demolished and the land will be made available for public recreation including hiking and birdwatching.

