



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

**September 2023**

### Overview

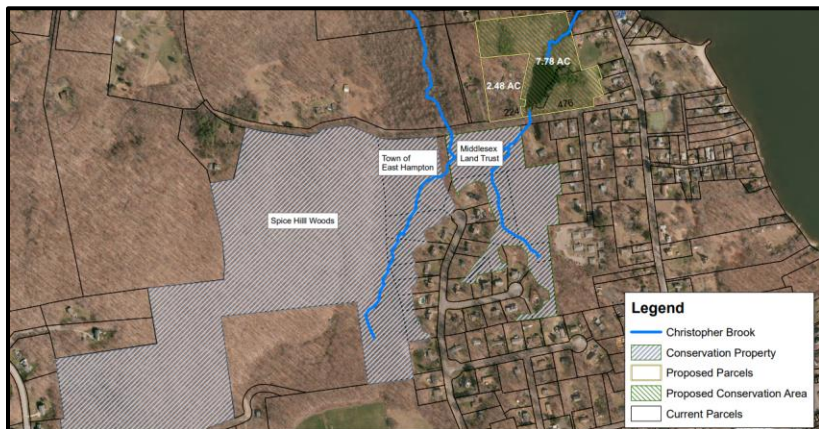
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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. One Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grant was funded in September 2023. Additional information on the project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Town of East Hampton	Christopher Property	East Hampton	7.51

**Town of East Hampton**  
**Christopher Property, East Hampton**  
**7.51 Acres**



This property contains the 1.3-acre Christopher Pond, fed by Christopher Brook, a tributary to Lake Pocotopaug which contributes approx. 21% of the total water load into the lake. The Town purchased the property to protect the water quality of the brook and lake, which suffers from cyanobacteria blooms every summer. There are protected parcels upstream (to the south) of Christopher Brook including land owned by the Town of East Hampton (5-acres), a Middlesex Land Trust Preserve (3.5 acres), and a 52-acre open space parcel known as Spice Hill Woods. The public will have use of the property for fishing, kayaking, hiking and picnicking.

### **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 September 2023.