

COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1999 ANNUAL REPORT
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

in compliance with

General Statutes of Connecticut
Section 23-8 (b) State Goal for Acquisition of Open Space

January 2000

1999 ANNUAL REPORT
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
per
GENERAL STATUTES OF CONNECTICUT, SECTION 23-8(b)
STATE GOAL FOR ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE

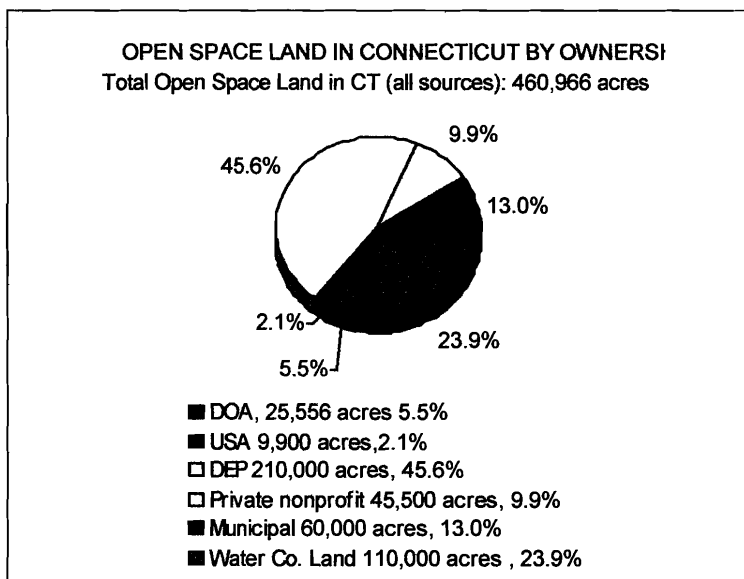
Overview: Section 23-8(b) of the General Statutes of Connecticut states that, "The goal of the state's open space acquisition program shall be to acquire land such that ten percent of the state's land area is held by the state as open space land and not less than eleven percent of the state's land area is held by municipalities, water companies or nonprofit land conservation organizations as open space land..."

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection is charged with the responsibility of developing a strategy for achieving the state's goal in consultation with The Council on Environmental Quality and private nonprofit land holding organizations.

Status: Connecticut has 3,205,760 acres. To have not less than ten percent of the state's land area held by the state as open space will require state ownership of 320,576 acres. To have twenty-one percent of the state's land preserved as open space will require 673,210 acres held by the state, municipalities, the federal government, private land conservation organizations, water companies (Class I and Class II land) and agricultural landowners.

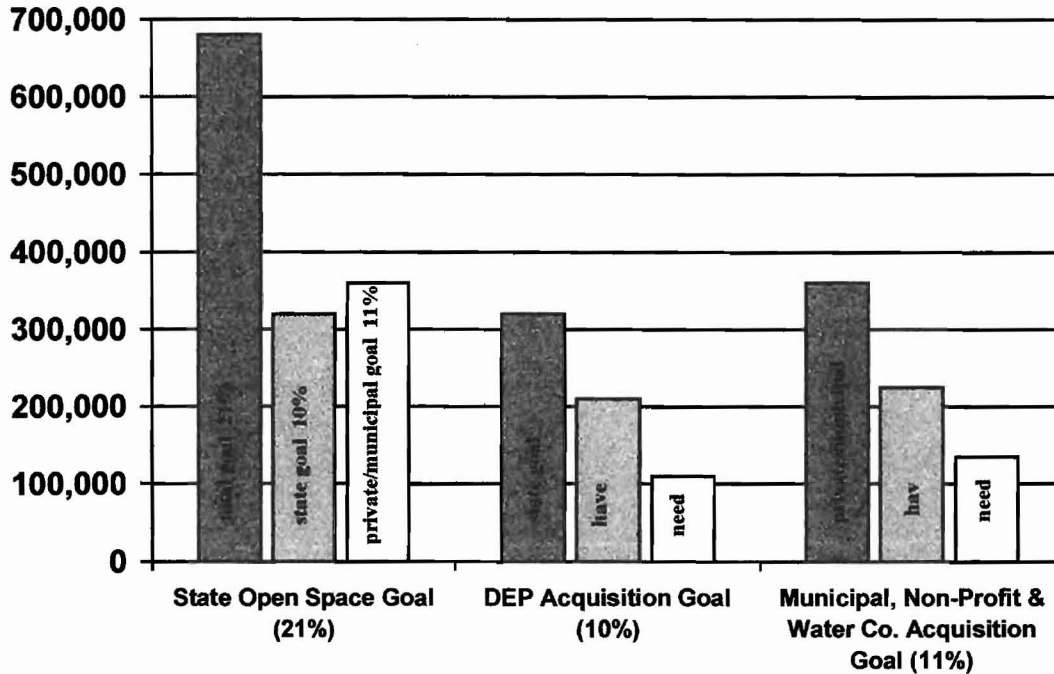
The State has acquired a total of 210,000 acres as open space land in its system of park, forest, wildlife, fishery, and natural resource management areas. Thus, the Department of Environmental Protection currently has 66 percent of the 320,576 acres of open space land targeted for state acquisition.

The United States of America owns 9,900 acres of land as trail corridor, wildlife preserve, flood control, or national historic park. It is estimated that nonprofit land conservation organizations own 45,500 acres in Connecticut. Municipalities in Connecticut are estimated to own 60,000 acres of land as open space. Class I and Class II water company lands in Connecticut currently total approximately 110,000 acres. Together, open space acreage held by these entities is 225,400 acres. Based on a target of 352,710 acres in total open space holdings for these entities, they currently hold 64 percent of their targeted open space goal. An additional 25,566 acres of land are preserved for agricultural purposes through the Department of Agriculture Farmland Development Rights program.



Goal: To meet the goals set forth in this report, the State of Connecticut must acquire at least 110,500 acres of open space over the next twenty-five years and encourage the acquisition of 128,000 acres by municipalities, private nonprofit land conservation organizations and water companies. The short-term target is to preserve 21,200 acres of state-owned land over the next five years and to assist in acquisition of 20,400 acres of open space land by municipalities, private nonprofit land conservation organizations and water companies over the next five years.

Acquisition Goal, Ownership and Acquisition Needed



Action Taken in 1999:

I. Planning: The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and private nonprofit land holding organizations, prepared a draft comprehensive strategy for achieving Connecticut's open space goals. The draft "Connecticut Green Plan for Open Space Acquisition" delineates the State's open space goals and the types of lands to be sought; outlines the current amount of open space in the State and how much is needed; describes the programs and funding available for land purchases; and the process for acquisition. The Green Plan is intended to serve as general guidance for program managers, as a tool for those who want to work with the State in preserving land, and as a basic explanation of Connecticut's approach to open space acquisition for the public.

The plan has been widely circulated and is in its third and final review by the Council on Environmental Quality and private nonprofit land holding organizations.

The plan will be completed and available for distribution by July 1, 2000.

II. Achieving State Land Goal: The Department of Environmental Protection acquired additional open space lands during 1999 through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program. This program is the DEP's principal strategy for meeting the 10 percent open space goal through the acquisition of lands for the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program is intended to acquire land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and other natural areas, in order to ensure the preservation and conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.

Since January, 1999, the Department of Environmental Protection acquired properties in 23 municipalities involving 8 cooperators and 3 donations of land. In total the DEP acquired 2,984 acres at a cost to the State of \$11,476,790. The contribution through cooperators and donors has resulted in a documented savings of \$7,597,000 or 40 percent of the actual purchase price.

Properties acquired through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program during calendar year 1999 are listed on the attached chart.

III. Assisting Municipalities and Nonprofit Organizations: The Department of Environmental Protection's principal strategy for achieving the open space goal for municipalities and nonprofit organizations is through a grant program that helps leverage local and private acquisition money. For FY1998-1999 the General Assembly approved \$10 million in grant funds for distribution. For FY1999-2000 the General Assembly approved \$12 million in grant funds. Working with private nonprofit land holding organizations, municipalities, water companies and the Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board, DEP developed and implemented the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. The Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space or to preserve agricultural heritage, and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

In 1999, forty-five grants were provided to thirty-eight project sponsors under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program for 4,186 acres of open space land.

Properties funded through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program during calendar year 1999 are listed on the attached chart.

In addition, the DEP coordinated review of twenty-six applications for fund assistance during November and December, 1999. Grant awards are expected to be announced in February, 2000.

Agenda 2000

I. The Department of Environmental Protection will print and distribute the "Connecticut Green Plan for Open Space Acquisition."

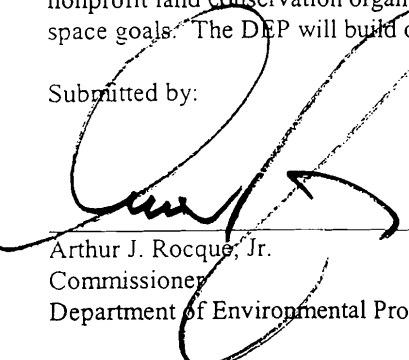
II. Additional lands will be evaluated and acquired through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program. The Agency will seek an additional \$20 million in new funding for the program.

III. The "third round" of grants to municipalities, private nonprofit land organizations, and water companies will be awarded and administered. A "fourth round" of grants will be solicited, awarded and administered during the second and third quarter of 2000. The DEP will seek \$12 million in new funding for continuation of the program in Fiscal Year 2001 and, if funds are made available, a fifth grant round will be held in Fall 2000.

Conclusion:

The Department of Environmental Protection, working together with municipalities, water companies and private nonprofit land conservation organizations, has embarked on an aggressive program toward meeting Connecticut's open space goals. The DEP will build on the success of the program to continue the momentum of the initial eighteen months.

Submitted by:



Arthur J. Rocque, Jr.
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection

Date: 1/19/00

s: charles\annual report

RECREATION AND NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM
1999 ACQUISITIONS

PROPERTY NAME, DATE PURCHASED (AG SIG. Or RECORDING DATE)	LOCATION	COOPERATOR	MATCH SHARE	FEE ACREAGE	EASEMENT RESTRICTION, OR ROW ACREAGE	PROBABLE PRIMARY MANAGER	STATE PURCHASE PRICE (Allocation or Estimate)	PURPOSE OF ACQUISITION
RN1997-0033 Havelle Property 2/25/99	Ross Pond State Park Killingly	None	None	3.25	None	DEP	\$10,000	A small but significant addition to Old Furnace State Park.
RN1989-0013 Legere/Messner 3/16/99	Bishop Swamp Wildlife Management Area Hebron & Lebanon	None	None	198.027	None	DEP	\$290,000	Acquisition protects the west end of Bishop Swamp and two major feeder streams from development.
RN1996-0013 Jonhson Inc. Donation 4/9/99	Pootatuck State Forest New Fairfield	100% Donation	None	4.218	None	DEP	\$0	This property joins two sections of State Forest.
RN1988-0134 Gagne/Minor Property 4/28/99	Cromwell Meadows Cromwell	None	None	3.95	None	DEP	\$2,500	A small inholding located at the entrance to Cromwell Meadows.
RN1993-0050 Consolidated Precast/Bidwell Donation 5/8/99	Mattatuck State Forest, Thomaston	None	100% Donation	5.93	None	DEP	\$0	Donation which provides access to the forest, rather steep topography rising from roads.
RN1999-0004 Anthem/BCBS 6/25/99	Goshen	None	None	848	None	DEP	\$2,472,000	Property contains rolling pasture and forest land, two ponds in picturesque natural surroundings.
RN1996-0029 Brown Property 6/28/99	Nathan Hale State Forest Coventry	George Dudley Seymour Trust Fund	\$750,000	186	None	DEP	\$250,000	Acquisition provide a sizeable addition to Nathan Hall State Forest.
RN1995-0055 Eklund Property 6/29/99	Mohegan State Forest Scotland	None	None	181.84	None	DEP	\$236,392	Adjacent to Mohegan State Forest. This parcel, along with Smith, Kranc and Ressler parcels, represent a substantial increase to the forest.
RN1994-0071 Ressler Property 6/29/99	Mohegan State Forest Scotland	None	None	105.86	None	DEP	\$190,548	Adjacent to Mohegan State Forest. This parcel, along with the Smith, Eklund and Kranc parcels, represent a substantial increase to the forest.
RN1995-0017 Kranc Property 5/29/99	Mohegan State Forest Scotland	None	None	93.75	None	DEP	\$168,750	Property contains a large pond, a brook, open fields, and large quantities of gravel. Property borders Mohegan State Forest and three other properties recently purchased by the DEP.
RN1995-0027 Firestone Property 5/29/99	Wagner WMA East Haddam & Lyme	Lyme & E. Haddam Land Trusts/Lyme, E. Haddam TNC	\$160,000	312	None	DEP	\$640,000	The east branch of the Eight Mile River runs through the southern portions of this property.
RN1990-0007 Bama/LaRosa Property 3/16/99	Flaherty Field Tral Area East Windsor	None	None	31.46	None	DEP	\$150,000	An attractive addition to Flaherty Field Tral Area.
RN1998-0009 Beeman Property 3/31/99	Tunxis State Forest Barkhamsted/Hartford	None	None	10.52	None	DEP	\$80,000	Property provides improved access into the State Forest.
RN1992-0010 Giacci, Chadwick, DeSantis Property 3/7/99	Algonquin State Forest/Colebrook	None	None	12	None	DEP	\$57,000	Acquisition of this property would straighten a boundary in the State Forest.
RN1998-0060 Kauffman/Goodrich Property 11/12/99	Meshomasic State Forest Portland	None	None	20.4	None	DEP	\$18,000	In-holding within Meshomasic State Forest. Timber Rattlesnake Forage Area.
SLA75-20-76 Endriss Property 11/15/99	West Rock Ridge State Park Hamden	None	None	5.78	None	DEP	\$25,000	Valuable addition to West Rock Ridge State Park.
RN1994-0066 3HC/Trout Brook Valley	Trout Brook Valley Easton & Weston	Aspetuck Land Trust	Unknown	300.01	385.09	DEP	\$6,000,000	This property represents the central core of a greenway connecting public non-profit lands and conserving the Hawley's Brook watershed; Hawley's Brook is highly rated habitat for native brook trout.
RN1998-0030 Egger Property 12/7/99	Ducks Unlimited	None	None	27	None	DEP	\$67,500	Valuable addition to Naugatuck State Forest.
RN1990-0057 Middlesex Realty Partners Property 12/8/99	Babcock Brook WMA, Colchester	None	None	4.32	None	DEP	\$12,000	This property prevents development along Miles Standish Road providing protection for the Babcock Wildlife Management Area.
RN1996-0012 Doppell Property 2/20/99	Connecticut River Old Saybrook	None	None	2.26	None	DEP	\$207,000	Parcel fronts on the Connecticut River within area of wetlands of international significance. Parcel directly adjoins a new boating facility just south of I-95 bridge spanning the river from Old Saybrook to Old Lyme.
RN1989-0055 Augustine Property 2/27/99	Red Cedar Lake Lebanon	None	None	179.8	None	DEP	\$425,000	Property makes an attractive addition to Red Cedar Lake Property.
RN1991-0045 Jewett City Savings 2/27/99	Waterford/Jordan Cove and LIS	100% Donation by Jewett City Savings Bank	100% Donation	6.11	None	DEP	\$0	A sandy peninsula with access from Reed Avenue. Property in Jordan Cove-Pleasure Beach area of Waterford Critical habitat located on the site including piping plovers.
SLA75-20-50 Doppi Property 2/27/99	West Rock Ridge State Park Hamden	None	None	7.8	None	DEP	\$100,000	Valuable addition to West Rock Ridge State Park.
RN1997-0008 Full Property 2/28/99	Plum Bank Wildlife Management Area Old Saybrook	Ducks Unlimited	100% Donation	6	None	DEP	\$0	Donation of 7.5 acres of unaccessible property adjacent to Plum Bank Marsh Wildlife Area.
RN1996-0044 Dscar Richard Property 2/29/99	Mohawk State Forest Goshen	None	None	1.5	None	DEP	\$4,000	This property will add to Mohawk State Forest.
RN1999-0093 Smith Property 2/29/99	Mohegan State Forest Scotland	None	None	14.5	None	DEP	\$26,100	In-holding to Mohegan State Forest discovered when Kranc, Ressler and Eklund properties were surveyed.
RN1994-0011 Lapey Property 2/29/99	Nepaug State Forest New Hartford	None	None	27	None	DEP	\$45,000	Valuable addition to Nepaug State Forest.
ANNUAL TOTALS				2599.285	385.09		\$11,476,790	

**OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION
GRANT PROGRAM
1999**

SPONSOR	PROJECT	ACERAGE	STATE GRANT
		4203.02	\$9,880,000
Woodbury-Flanders Nature Ctr	Whittemore Sanctuary	686	\$450,000
East Granby	Metacomet Ridge Farm Acq	411	\$175,725
Glastonbury	Cider Mill Property	21.8	\$337,500
Vernon	Tankerhoosen River Preservation Area	17	\$171,000
Essex Land Trust	Falls River	21.65	\$135,000
Old Saybrook/Old Saybrook L.T.	Gleason Property	267	\$369,450
Seymour	Seymour Forest	195	\$450,000
Oxford	Birmingham Utilities Land	415	\$450,000
Norwalk (T)	Butte Pond Brook Watershed	8	\$450,000
Fairfield	BHC - Brookside Drive Prop	10	\$450,000
Orange	The Racebrook Tract	230	\$450,000
Simsbury	Sottile Property	24	\$21,600
Manchester Land Trust	Risley Reservoir Frontage	5.2	\$36,000
Manchester	Dennison & Case Properties (Case Mountain)	50	\$201,493
Farmington	Collinsville Road	5.05	\$23,850
Branford Land Trust	Medlyn Property	48	\$227,025
Bethany	Monument Stables Prop	87	\$191,250
South Windsor	Kelley Waldren-Willow	160	\$315,000
Canton	Sun, Wind & Woodland Preservation	145	\$67,500
Water Authority (Madison)	Abbott Property	82.3	\$171,000
Sharon (Audubon)	Osborne Property	23.5	\$123,750
Danbury	Tarrywile Lakeside Property	100	\$371,250
Lyme Land Con. Trust, Lyme	Czikowsky Property	95.9	\$180,000
Middletown	Sumner Brook Watershed	170	\$292,500
Southington	Korin Property	78	\$250,965
Manchester	Bailey Property (Case Mtn.)	21.37	\$48,083
Woodbridge	Shepherd Farm	55	\$297,000
Meriden	Cliffside Property	21.31	\$52,650
Cheshire	Bolder Knoll Farm	90	\$450,000
Hebron	Jagger Lane	31.6	\$64,800
Chaplin	Landeck Farm	71	\$82,350
Farmington	Waterville Road	2.62	\$58,950
South Windsor	Mitchell Property	75	\$337,500
Mansfield	Hatch-Skinner Property	35.33	\$126,000
Danbury	Mill PlainSwamp	34	\$112,500
Middlefield	DiConstanzo Property	34.69	\$15,750
Durham	Fitzgerald Property	158	\$355,500
Enfield	Levitz Property	3.24	\$135,000
Putnam	Air Line Trail	17	\$58,500
Middlefield	Kowalski & Ford Property	14.4	\$16,200
Simsbury	Village Water Company	17.4	\$247,500
Milford	Housatonic River O.S.	37	\$337,500
Shelton	Beardsley Farm Conservation	64	\$315,000
Monroe	Great Hollow Lake Preserve	43.16	\$272,930
Farmington	Suburban Park	20.5	\$134,429