

Appendix C

Incorporation of Comments into the Green Plan

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Green Plan Public Outreach Activities/Events

Below is a list summarizing public outreach activities or events related to the 2016-2020 Green Plan, conducted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in partnership with others.

Partner	Date	Outreach
CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions	Fall 2014	Article in “The Habitat,” the Association’s quarterly newsletter, on early efforts to revise the Plan.
CT Land Conservation Council	Fall 2014	Distributed DEEP handouts on revising the Green Plan at Regional Land Trust Summit meetings in the towns of Prospect, Granby, and Mansfield.
CT Audubon Society	11/13/14	Discussion on draft Green Plan.
CT Land Conservation Council	3/21/15	Presented on the draft Green Plan at the Council’s annual meeting.
CT Water Planning Council Advisory Group, Watershed Lands Workgroup	10/15/15	Presented on the draft Green Plan at the Workgroup’s monthly meeting.
State Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board	2/8/16	Draft Green Plan shared for review.
CT Office of Policy & Management	2/8/16	Draft Green Plan shared for review.
CT Department of Public Health	2/8/16	Draft Green Plan shared for review.
CT Council for Environmental Quality	2/8/16	Draft Green Plan shared for review.
CT Department of Agriculture	2/8/16	Draft Green Plan shared for review.
CT Land Conservation Council	3/19/16	DEEP debuted draft Green Plan to the general public with a presentation and brochures at the Council’s annual meeting.
CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions	3/29/16	Requested for comments on the draft Green Plan from members of the conservation and inland wetlands commissions.
CT Chapter of the American Planning Association	3/29/16	Requested for comments on the draft Green Plan from members of the planning community and regional councils of governments.

CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions	Spring 2016	Article in “The Habitat,” the association’s quarterly newsletter, on the Draft Green Plan and an open public comment period.
CT Chapter of the American Planning Association	Spring 2016	Article in “Connecticut Planning,” the Association’s quarterly magazine, on the Draft Green Plan and an open public comment period.
CT Regional Councils of Government	4/5/16	Requested for comments on the draft Green Plan from, and suggestions for outreach to, key municipal planning and conservation members.
Audubon CT	5/11/16	Meeting held to discuss and receive comments on the draft Green Plan.
CT Water Planning Council Advisory Group, Watershed Lands Workgroup	5/26/16	Reminder to Workgroup members to review and submit comments on the draft Green Plan by the public comment period closure.

Comments Received During Public Comment Period

On March 18, 2016, DEEP made a draft version of the Green Plan publicly available for viewing and download on its webpage and opened a public comment period to June 1, 2016. The following is a summary of comments received on that version of the draft Green Plan.

Stakeholder	Main Topic	Comments
Western CT Council of Government	State Open Space Inventory and Funding Mechanisms	Provided open space funding strategy recommendations and opportunities for partnership with WestCOG. Concerned that the pilot Land Registry could promote land development next to open space land, acreage acquisition targets fall short, and priority land types will put some regions at disadvantage for grant funding.
Audubon CT	State Program Operations and Funding Mechanisms	Generally, suggested that the plan: identify resources needed to successfully implement the plan; include details on stewardship; outline ways to support towns; call for the protection of more land for wildlife habitat; include more products derived from collaborative GIS mapping projects; and allow for discussion of a new, 2025 open space acquisition goal.
Roxbury Land Trust	Open Space Acquisition Priorities	Discussed the land trust’s own open space strategy, in partnership with the Town of Roxbury and private landowners, and how much of their goal might be considered reached through temporarily protected lands such as regulated wetlands, rivers, floodplains, and P.A. 490 lands.
Litchfield Greenprint, Housatonic Valley Association	State Program Operations and Funding Mechanisms	Emphasized applying for federal match funding and building partnerships with private landowners; setting goals for the acquisition of land that does not allow public access in order to protect certain natural resources; coordinating with the Department of Transportation to align DEEP climate change goals with transportation infrastructure resilience planning.
Highstead Conservation Foundation	State Program Operations	Suggested adding progress towards plan goals to the DEEP open space annual report, which is mentioned in the plan. Overall pleased with draft plan.
Gil Bligh	State Program Operations	Nonspecific inquiry on DEEP lease of water company land.
Peter Cooper	Open Space Acquisition Priorities	Inquiry on protecting lands for biodiversity and habitat corridors, which is mentioned in the plan.
Michael J. Scott	Funding Mechanisms	Suggested implementing an “outdoor use” tax as a land conservation funding strategy.
William Emerick	Public Outreach	Asked whether DEEP participates in-person public outreach efforts at town commission meetings and offered an invitation to an upcoming local meeting to promote the Plan.

Anders Nygren	Funding Mechanisms	Suggested providing in the plan reasons behind declining funding allocations to DEEP for open space acquisition.
Ellen Lukens	Open Space Acquisition Priorities	Suggested that the State prioritize the acquisition of the “Maromas,” a mostly forested area in Middletown, to protect natural resources and as a link between existing State-owned and other open space land.
Timothy Lewis	State Program Operations	Highly in favor of the plan.
Bob Nickson	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Bob Burns	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Roger Durno	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
David Smith	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Roger Geiger	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Denis Lafaille	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Wade Jarvis	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Russell MacIntyre	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Tom Reitsma	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Sandra Clark	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Richard Mascoli	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Garrett Johns	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Napoleon Tetreault	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
James Blais	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Gary Schiessl	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Martin Whetsel	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Frank Calder	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
James Gobble	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Keith Gandarillas	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
Richard W. Stone	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*

Kenneth Henrich	ATV/ OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*
American Motorcyclist Association	ATV/OHV Recreation	Discussed desire for land where ATV/OHV recreation is allowed.*

* All comments received from members of the ATV/OHV community make reference to Section 23-26 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which is related to land management decisions for the use of ATVs on existing State-owned land. Pursuant to this statute, after a significant stakeholder process, DEEP formally adopted a guidance and management [policy](#) for the establishment of ATV facilities on State property. While DEEP has been working towards the goal of incorporating legal, sustainable ATV use on some state lands, this subject is outside of the scope of the State’s strategy for acquiring new open space land. In response to comments received, DEEP modified the Green Plan to note that funds awarded through its Recreational Trails grant program may be used towards locally-supported trails and trail systems accessible to authorized motorized vehicle users.

Major Revisions to the Draft Green Plan

The following is a summary of major content revisions made to the draft Green Plan as a result of the public comment period and discussions held with other state agencies and the State’s land conservation partners.

Plan Section	Revision	Page
Throughout	With the best information available, metrics on open space acquisition acreage and funding were revised to cover years 2007 through December 31, 2015.	
5-Year Action Plan Strategy	Description added on watershed land protection by water companies and the Department of Public Health’s role in implementing state Water Company Land laws.	10
	Information added on the Long Island Sound Study Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model and DEEP’s Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Focus Area Viewer as two geospatial tools planners can use to identify coastal lands of high conservation value.	14
	Objective added to establish partnerships with private landowners and evaluate new private landowner open space conservation option programs.	27
	Objective added to enhance DEEP coordination with the CT Department of Agriculture to protect farmlands.	28
	Objective added to work with the Bureau of Energy and Technology towards balancing goals of DEEP’s energy units with those of the land conservation divisions of the agency.	29
	Information added on Regional Conservation Partnerships and example projects.	30
	Objective added to enhance outreach on DEEP’s open space programs to the Councils of Governments.	34
	Objectives added to inventory and evaluate inactive drinking water reservoirs for their permanent protection, improve natural resource occurrences, and improve tidal marsh migration areas.	38
I. Plan Background & Purpose	Table categories edited to better align with Green Plan land acquisition priority land cover types for conservation.	50

	Information added on The Preserve, Auerfarm State Park Scenic Reserve, and the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area as recent achievements in statewide land conservation.	53
II. Land Protection Challenges in CT	Information added on Audubon Connecticut and others’ “Project Green Space” local option for open space conservation funding.	60
III. Status of CT Open Space	Information added on The Lower CT River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange and their Strategic Conservation Plan efforts.	78
	Information added on the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative and its strategic open space conservation plan and efforts.	80
	Description added on watershed land protection by water companies and the Department of Public Health’s role in implementing state Water Company Land laws.	81
	Information added on the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority protecting over 400 acres of watershed lands with partial funding from the State’s open space grant program.	82
	Information added on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge proposed for New England and New York.	86
	Information added on the protection of coastal grasslands by DEEP, the Avalonia Land Conservancy, and others in Stonington with partial funding from the USDA-NRCS Grassland Reserve Program.	95
IV. Land Conservation Funding Programs and Partners in CT	Highlighted the relationship between DEEP and the State Natural Heritage, Open Space and Land Acquisition Review Board.	100
	Information added on recently raised caps for the acquisition of open space lands funded in combination by state and federal grants.	101
	Information added on the CT Greenways Council and DEEP’s Recreational Trails grant program. Noted that funds awarded through this program may be used towards locally supported	106

	trails and trail systems accessible to authorized motorized vehicle users.	
	Information added on selected USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services programs: the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Healthy Forests Reserve Program, and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.	109-111
V. Purpose of, and Need for, Open Space	Information added on DEEP’s Water Resource Management Approach to achieve state water quality.	116
	Information added on the Long Island Sound Study Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model Viewer Basic and All Data web-based planning tool to identify upland tidal marsh migration areas for conservation.	119-120
	Information added on the protection of core forest blocks for the conservation of birds and brook trout in CT.	123-124
	Information added on the protection of lands having the potential to be managed as early successional habitat for New England cottontail rabbits, shrubland-nesting birds, and other wildlife.	124-126
	Description added on watershed land protection by water companies and the Department of Public Health’s role in implementing state Water Company Land laws.	130
	Note added on brownfields’ potential for conversion to wildlife habitat and green infrastructure to filter polluted urban stormwater.	138